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OPINION METER

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MTEC Outreach

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is taking its tourism education message to student leaders.

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Powerful Quake

Search teams frantically work to find survivors of a powerful earthquake in New Zealand.

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Defiant Gadhafi

A defiant Moammar Gadhafi vows to fight to his "last drop of blood."

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Man found not guilty of sex abuse of minor. PAGE 3
Lawmakers say it's time to reduce number of govt employees. PAGE 4

Another \$120M failed investment

» 3 other new investors 'interested' in same public land

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A South Korean company that was planning to build a \$120 million hotel resort in the same area abandoned by Flame Sako Corp. in Marpi/San Roque has failed to meet a Feb. 20 deadline to negotiate with the Department of Public Lands.

But Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that three other investors based in "Asian countries" have already expressed interest in leasing the area.

Each one is also planning to build a hotel resort.

"DPL continues to actively pursue

investors to help the economy and protect the interest of Northern Marianas descent, but we have come up with new policies that will help us determine whether they are really serious in their investment plans. These three other investors are willing to comply with these

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All set for today's march, public hearing on status

We are optimistic that once the U.S. Congress is in session regarding the CNMI alien worker status, they will consider many of our concerns.

—Rabby Syed, United Workers Movement-NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Foreign workers, their families, and supporters will hold a march this afternoon to push for U.S. citizenship or permanent

resident status in the Commonwealth.

The march, organized by the United Workers Movement-NMI led by Rabby Syed and Ronnie Doca, in cooperation with the Human Dignity Movement led

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School cadets hold up the flags for the U.S. and CNMI during the playing of the national anthems as part of the grand opening of the U.S. Army Career Center at the Ladera Plaza in Oleai yesterday afternoon. Inset, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, center, Lt. Col. Thomas Crowson, second from right, of the Portland Recruiting Battalion, and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores lead the ribbon cutting for the first U.S. Army Career Center on Saipan. The ceremony also marked the enlistment of 15 Saipan, Rota and Tinian young residents in the U.S. Army.

Recruitment center for US Army opens

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A recruiting center for islanders who want to serve in the U.S. Army officially opened yesterday along Beach Road in Oleai, Saipan—an occasion described by a ranking Army official as a symbol of the U.S. Army's commitment to serve

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Ways and Means chair: No more budget hearings

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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 REPORTER

Once the Legislature receives the governor's fiscal year 2012 budget submission, the House Ways and Means Committee plans to immediately work on it and do away with department hearings that only delay the budget process, said committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) yesterday.

"Let's get real. In the budget hearings, agencies and departments want to get more than what the governor submitted. We all know that we just don't have the resources we used to have,"

Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Basa said he's not surprised that acting governor Eloy S. Inos projected a budget of just \$120 million for fiscal year 2012—down by \$12 million from the 2011 budget of \$132 million—because of the CNMI's economic conditions.

He said his committee will do its best to make sure there will not be another partial government shutdown this year.

The Legislature failed to pass a budget before Oct. 1 last year, the start of fiscal year 2011, resulting in a partial government shutdown that left over 1,400 government workers temporarily out of job for over a week.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said the Senate and House have already agreed to work closely on the governor's budget submission.

The freshman lawmaker echoed Basa's statement, saying her committee will not allow a repeat of the partial government shutdown last year.

The Executive Branch has until April 1 to submit a fiscal year 2012 budget proposal to the Legislature. Fiscal year

2012 begins on Oct. 1, 2011.

Basa said one of the ways to expedite this year's budget process is to do away with budget hearings in which agencies and departments directly meet with Ways and Means Committee members.

"The process is also redundant. The agencies attend the public hearings. Then during budget deliberations, they are also there to tell us they need more money than what the governor asked. Once we receive the governor's budget, we will immediately review the figures," he said.

A budget bill needs to originate from the House. Once it passes the bill, the measure goes to the Senate. If the Senate rejects the bill, a conference committee may be formed to remove the budget deadlock.

Last year's contentious issues included the House's push for a 16-hour work cut per payroll versus the Senate's eight-hour work cut proposal. The deadlock remained way past the Oct. 1 deadline that resulted in the partial shutdown. The Senate later relented, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the budget measure immediately.

Zoning eyes targeted presentations on proposed changes to zoning regs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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 REPORTER

In a bid to draw more feedback, the Commonwealth Zoning Office plans to hold presentations on the proposed changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 to various organizations in the community.

Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt said their office is working on getting approval to hold these presentations before civic groups such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Saipan Rotary Club.

According to Wyatt, reaching out to these groups will ensure a target audience for their presentation, unlike the three public presentations they held from January to February that drew scant attention despite promotions in newspapers, television, and radio.

"I think that if we have an audience for our presentations, we'll get more response. So this time we will try something new. There's only so much we can do to get the public's participation and get them to attend," he said.

The zoning board was scheduled to approve the proposed text amendments during its board meeting on Feb. 11 but community members who attended the meeting expressed opposition, citing the lack of public participation in the process.

Wyatt maintained that members of the community had the opportunity to let their comments be heard since previ-

ous presentations were well publicized in different media.

"The office certainly went out of their way. We've had a total of three public presentations, including radio and TV guestings," he added.

The zoning board has decided to defer action for another 60 days.

"We're hoping that after the 60-day extension, they'll approve the text amendments and they'll go to the Legislature," said Wyatt.

Since the approved extension, Wyatt said they already conducted a presentation for students of Northern Marianas College Current Issues class of Sam McPhetres on Feb. 17.

The public may send their comments on the proposed text amendments by email (ZoningBoard@zoning.gov.mp) or through the Zoning website, www.zoning.gov.mp.

The zoning board will convene after the 60-day deadline which, by then, they will have two new members on board.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed this month Alicia S. Igitol and Herman P. Sablan to serve as members of the board, replacing Herminia M. Fusco and Henry S. Hofschneider.

"Until we have the two appointees that are going through the process, we will not have quorum. I don't believe we'll have a meeting in March. But I believe we'll have our two new members before the 60 days is up," added Wyatt.

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Man found not guilty of sex abuse of minor

A Superior Court jury yesterday reached a not guilty verdict against a man accused of sexually abusing a female minor in February.

After deliberating for only a

few hours, the six jurors found Islam Mohammad Aminul not guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja released

the \$2,000 cash bail that Aminul posted for his temporary release.

The jury trial began on Tuesday. The jurors deliberated yesterday.

Assistant public defender Michael Brown served as counsel for Aminul. Assistant attorneys general Benjamin Petersburg and Peter B. Prestley appeared for the government at the trial.

Police arrested Aminul on allegations that he sexually abused an 11-year-old girl at an apartment in Sadog Tasi on Feb. 9, 2010. He pleaded not guilty. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Ex-cop's co-defendant in 'ice' trafficking case arrested anew

Authorities arrested anew on Tuesday the co-defendant of a former police officer in an "ice" trafficking case for allegedly violating the conditions of her house arrest.

Belinda O. Omengkar was taken to the Superior Court yesterday.

Based on the testimony of detective Sean White, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos found probable cause to continue Omengkar's detention and imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for her temporary release.

White testified that he had checked Omengkar's house Tuesday afternoon after receiving information that she has been driving around and was seen inside poker arcades and bars.

White said that Omengkar was not in the house. When she came home later, she allegedly explained that she had gone to the hospital. White said they inquired at the hospital and learned that Omengkar did not go there.

White said Omengkar also previously violated judge Kenneth Govendo's order placing her under house arrest. Police officers conducted a random check on Omengkar on Sept. 7, 2010, and found that she was not at her mother's home. Neal said the officers found Omengkar at a store and escorted her out of the establishment.

Omengkar faces five counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, six counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, and one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of

a controlled substance.

On July 15, 2010, the CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested former police officer Florencio Q. Richards and Omengkar inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." At the time, Richards was off-duty. Richards has already pleaded guilty to the charges in federal court. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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\$1.1M grant reprogrammed for fire station rehab, GTC library

The board of directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. approved yesterday the reprogramming of about \$1.1 million in Community Development Block Grant funds for the completion of two new projects.

The reprogrammed funds will finance the rehabilitation of the fire station on Saipan and the expansion of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

Library.

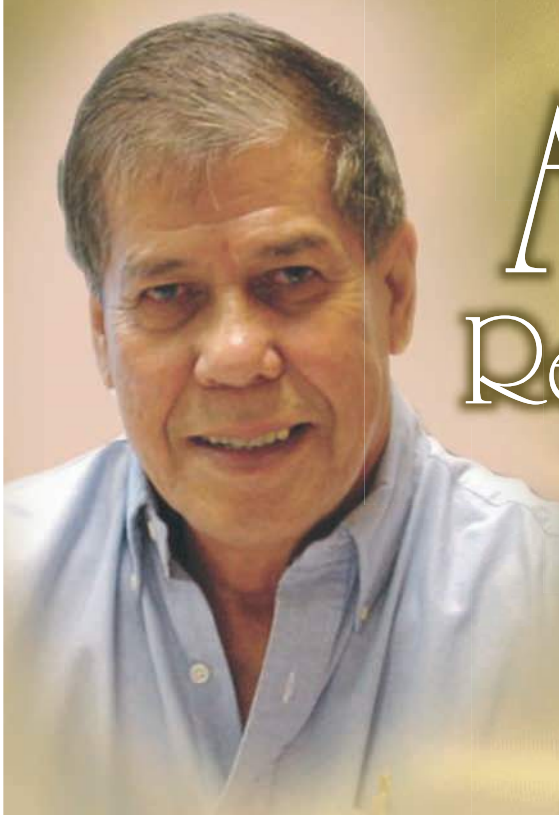
Planner and grant writer Jeannie P. Mafnas said the original plan was to use the CDBG funds for the rehabilitation of two GTC school buildings.

The project, however, had been funded by CIP money and was replaced by the construction of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association facility for \$800,000.

Mafnas disclosed that the NMIFA project did not move forward because of a lot of factors, including the environmental assessment on the site.

"Until they're ready, we can probably revisit [the project]," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

With the board's approval, Mafnas said the next step is the publication of the planned action. *(Clarissa David)*




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Lawmakers: It's time to reduce number of govt employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With projected budget for fiscal year 2012 at \$120 million which is \$12 million less than \$132 million in fiscal year 2011, some lawmakers said yesterday it is now time to reduce the number of government employees.

"Reduce the size of government. It's time to manage human resources properly," said Rep. Joe Deleon

Guerrero (R-Saipan).

He said some 80 percent of the CNMI budget is spent on personnel, and only 20 percent on operations, which he said shows a "top heavy" government.

Deleon Guerrero said the independent desk audits on the departments of Public Safety and Community and Cultural Affairs confirmed what everyone knew all along—that these agencies have personnel and units with overlapping and questionable functions,

among other things.

"Read the writing on the wall. The desk audit proved that there are more personnel than needed, and that only covered two agencies. If a desk audit is done on all agencies, I'm sure they'd say the same thing," he said.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) already introduced last week a legislative initiative calling for a reduction in the number of Saipan House members from 18 to nine, which he said will improve ef-

iciency and save the government over \$1 million annually.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he hopes the Fitial administration will aggressively implement the recommendation by Management Analysis Inc. in its desk audit on DPS and DCCA.

"In general, I believe it's time to reduce the number of personnel in government. We can also do our own desk audits. Why spend some \$300,000 if we have agencies that could hopefully do it? We save money that way," he said.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said it is time to talk about "downsizing" the government.

"It's a tough choice but we've got to do it," said Basa, chairman of the

House Ways and Means Committee.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said on Tuesday that the administration will fully implement the MAI recommendations concerning DPS and DCCA on Oct. 1, but the transition period will start in March or April.

Dela Cruz said there's a need to beef up agencies like the Revenue and Taxation Division, especially its enforcement personnel.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said terminating government employees is not the best solution.

She said the government still keeps hiring people, and filling vacant positions for full-time employees even though they are not critical.

STATUS

From Page 1

by Itos Feliciano, presses for the granting of a pathway to citizenship for the islands' long-term foreign workers.

Three other worker groups—the Dekada Movement, the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, and the Unity Group of Foreign Workers—do not support the march but oppose anything less than a pathway to citizenship.

The three groups said they have also mobilized their members and supporters to attend the Senate public hearing tonight.

March participants are asked to be at the Kilili Beach at 4pm.

They will start the march at 5pm from Kilili Beach to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies will be holding a public hearing on a revised draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress on the status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

The public hearing is set for 6pm.

Syed said they will be carrying placards and banners during the march.

He is asking everyone "to maintain a peaceful attitude," and describes the march as a "peaceful one" to make known their long-time appeal to the U.S. Congress to grant them a pathway to citizenship or outright citizenship.

"We are optimistic that once the U.S. Congress is in session regarding the CNMI alien worker status, they will consider many of our concerns because foreign workers here entered the CNMI legally and with proper documentation, unlike the over 11 million in the U.S. mainland that entered the country illegally. The foreign workers here also have U.S. Social Security numbers; we are already in the U.S. system," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Syed said that U.S. Public Law 110-229 specifically required the U.S. Department of the Interior to come up with a report and recommendation on the status of foreign workers in the CNMI, which Interior did.

"It's already in their mind; it's just a matter of process. That's why we're asking President Obama to use his administrative authority to give a status to foreign workers here, which will allow them to stay in the CNMI until the U.S. Congress acts on this immigration issue," Syed added.

He said investors from Korea, China, Russia, and other countries have also expressed interest in joining the march.

Syed said some 500 long-term business permit holders whose status is just as precarious as the foreign workers should be included in the Senate committee's recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

Senate recommendation

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the FRIA Committee, encouraged community members to participate in the public hearing, and to make their voices heard on the draft recommendation.

The Senate's draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress is to allow non-resident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 to apply in 2013 for a status similar to those negotiated with citizens of the Freely Associated States. May 2008 was when the federalization measure was signed into law.

Senators said they plan to drop the term "FAS-like status" when they finalize the report after the last round of public hearings, because such status is specifically negotiated for FAS citizens.

FAS citizens from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia can freely travel, work, live and study in the U.S. mainland and its territories.

Syed revised yesterday his statement

regarding the Senate draft recommendation.

"Our position remains the same. We the members of the UWM-NMI agree with the Department of the Interior's April 2010 recommendation to the U.S. Congress, and we support long-term status for legal foreign workers that will include a direct pathway to U.S. citizenship. We cannot accept a status that would provide us less than this," Syed said in a letter to Hofschneider and other senators.

Syed said "it is time for the long-term foreign workers to be granted U.S. status with a pathway to citizenship with full social and political rights."

Itos Feliciano, president of the Human Dignity Movement, said they recognize that it is Congress that will decide the status of the nonresidents, "but we want to go on record that we protest the untruths in the draft Senate report."

"We want to let the U.S. Congress and all American citizens know that the legal foreign workers in the CNMI want to join the American family as full U.S. citizens, after living and working in the CNMI for years and decades," he said.

Feliciano said the Human Dignity Movement "cannot trust that our view or testimony will be included in the Senate report, but we will send our own video, photographs and testimony so the U.S. Senate knows that we came out to support a pathway to U.S. citizenship for all legal nonresidents who have worked in the CNMI for five consecutive years or longer."

The Senate's last public hearing will be held on Friday, 6pm, at the Tinian Elementary School.

Syed said he will also be on Tinian to observe the public hearing there. He is calling all nonresident workers and their supporters on Tinian to have a meeting with him from 3pm to 4pm on Friday, Feb. 25, in front of Tinian Elementary School.

vestors and see whether they are serious in their plans," he added.

While Leisure Planner abandoned its plan before even signing a land lease agreement, Flame Sako abandoned its project long after it signed a lease deal with DPL.

Flame Sako is not the only foreign investor that abandoned its investment projects and failed to settle its land lease arrears with DPL.

DPL also terminated its land lease agreement with Neo Gold Wings Paradise for abandoning its leased property on Tinian. Neo Gold Wings had planned to build a \$1 billion casino hotel. Government records show Neo Gold Wings owes DPL \$78,470.31 in monthly land lease and interest charge, from March 21, 2009 to March 1, 2010. Of this amount, \$74,129.03 is for the monthly rentals, and \$4,341 is for the interest charges. The figures have since changed.

Man gets 2-year probation for illegal pesticide

The federal court imposed yesterday a two-year probation sentence on a man who pleaded guilty to one count of distributing an unregistered pesticide.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Dean D. Pregerson ordered Bo Hu Li to meet with the U.S. Department of Customs and Enforcement and Immigration immediately.

Pregerson ordered Li, a Chinese national, to abide by all U.S. Immigration laws.

The judge required the defendant to pay a \$5 special assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler recommended a two-year probation sentence.

A federal grand jury indicted Li on two counts of alleged importation of undeclared pesticides from China.

Schuler said in court papers that Li,

a Chinese farmer, shipped unregistered pesticides from China to Saipan out of a desire to grow better crops and make more money in the farming business.

Schuler said the use of unregistered pesticides in the CNMI is a serious problem that must be addressed.

"The public must know that pesticides are regulated, and that offenders will be punished," he said.

"As an alien, defendant understands that his status in the CNMI is predicated in part on his good behavior and that any future violations, if not the instant violation, will likely subject him to removal," he pointed out.

Li, who arrived on Saipan in 1995, lives on Saipan with his wife and many children. He has two brothers here. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

RECRUITMENT

From Page 1

the people of the Northern Marianas.

Speaking to a large crowd of students, lawmakers, and community members, Lt. Col. Thomas A. Crawson, Portland Recruiting Battalion commander, said: "This is a great day for U.S. in the Commonwealth. Today, we're reinforcing our commitment to serve U.S. armed forces and serve the NMI people. You, as an island nation, makes us strong in the Army."

The Army recruitment center is adjacent to the U.S. Marine Corps Career Center on the first floor on the Ladera Plaza.

Crawson, who has served in a variety of command and staff positions throughout the U.S. and Germany, said that Commonwealth soldiers are known throughout the Army family as hardworking, mission-focused, and best of the best.

He pointed out that CNMI servicemembers do well and go through the toughest selection process, compared to the U.S. mainland where only one of every four high school students qualify to serve the Army.

"Our job really is to support people to the right direction. The army values, I can say, are the hallmark of the very young men and women coming from this island," he added.

He recognized yesterday 15 individuals who have already expressed their interest to join the Army after graduating from high school this school year. Among them is Kaelany Camacho, a senior at Kagman High School, who described his chosen career as a "dream come true."

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, who was the event's guest speaker, said the U.S. Army recruiting center is a

symbol that the CNMI youth can strive to be someone and to be somewhere, in a chosen career of great importance.

"The U.S. Army recruiting center is a centerpiece of the future of young men and women—the lifeline for advancement—into career fields in various professions such as engineer, teacher, law enforcement, heavy equipment and auto mechanics, computer technicians, nurses, business, and perhaps a future commissioner of education," she said.

"In the past few years, I have seen many of our local military families return to the CNMI and have worked in the private and public sectors. The expertise that they brought back range from being an instructor with the JROTC to holding key positions in government such as the legislative and the central government," she added.

A large percentage of students graduating from PSS choose to go into the armed forces. In school year 2008, 20 percent of graduates went into the military; the figure rose to 30 percent in school year 2010.

At Tinian High School alone, Sablan disclosed that 5 of 50 seniors have already expressed interest to enter the armed forces after graduation: two in the Army and three in the air force.

In recent past, several students have taken advantage of the Senior Officers Training Corp at the University of Guam.

With the help of federal dollars, Sablan said that PSS is also making progress in its Troops-to-Teachers program, which remains a conduit for the island's reservists or military personnel who return back to the CNMI to work for the school system.

Saipan Tribune learned that since the program's inception in 2003, PSS has recruited 40 troops to teachers each year. At the end of this school year, at least four troopers will receive their education degrees, she said.

INVESTMENT

From Page 1

policies, upon execution of the lease," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

These new policies include one-year advance payment of the land lease, and a minimum of \$3 million in an escrow account.

Babauta, a former House speaker, said it still premature to disclose the identity of the three separate investors.

The only investor that the DPL secretary named is the one that failed to pursue its \$120 million investment plan—Leisure Planner Corp. of South Korea. The investor had planned to cater mostly to retirees.

Babauta said Leisure Planner informed DPL in September/October of its intent to lease 4.9 hectares of the 5.1 hectares of public lands in the Marpi/San Roque area.

This is the same area previously leased by Flame Sako Corp. of South Korea, which had planned to build a \$60 million to \$80 million hotel resort, only to abandon the area and incur land lease arrears of over \$55,000 as of October 2010. This area is north of the former The Palms Resort.

Babauta said Leisure Planner submitted a formal letter of interest, architectural and engineering design, and provided financial data and plans to finance the investment, among other things, as well as paid the application fee.

"Last month, I wrote them a letter, giving them 30 days to come to the negotiating table. That 30-day period expired on Feb. 20," he said.

DPL is now preparing a second letter that will state that DPL is "no longer pursuing negotiation with Leisure Planner Corp.," Babauta said.

"They kept us in the dark for months. We will now turn to the other three in-

CPA got \$15.5M in airport grants in FY2010

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority received \$15.5 million in grants to improve and expand airports on three islands last fiscal year, with the Saipan International Airport getting the lion's share of the funds.

Citing the Federal Aviation Administration's airport improvement plan program, CPA comptroller Derek Sasamoto said the Saipan airport got a total of \$11.654 million in airport grants from October 2009 to September 2010. In that same period, the Rota airport received

\$3.791 million, while the Tinian airport got \$71,690.

According to the Sasamoto, these grants funded various projects ranging from runway rehabilitation and the purchase of a generator, to terminal building improvements and taxiway rehabilitation on Saipan.

A large portion was also used to build the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting facility, installing a lighting system for the Rota runway, and strengthening of the Tinian airport parallel taxiway.

Construction work at the main runway of the Saipan International Airport is now

in full swing and CPA is gearing up for its completion in eight months.

Runway 7/25 is expected to be functional by October this year. Its rehabilitation includes milling of the existing runway, taxiway, blast pad, and shoulder pavements; asphalt concrete overlay and other works.

Based on the construction schedule and project costs, the main runway rehabilitation will cost \$19 million, including a supplemental funding of \$5.9 million for standby

claims—all funded by the FAA under the airport improvement project program.

CPA is also seeking FAA funding for project this fiscal year 2011. These include the airport master plan for three islands and the purchase of four

more vehicles for the CPA's ARFF department. CPA also wants to buy a sweeper for the Saipan airport to replace one that no longer works.

For the Tinian airport, CPA is proposing the relocation of its ARFF building and access road. This project is currently under review by FAA. On Rota, CPA wants to replace its perimeter fence.

NMHC's Section 8 Program gets high marks

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Housing Choice Voucher Program of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. got high marks for program year ending September 2010.

The high rating is based on the Section Eight Management Assessment Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEMAP measures the performance of public housing agencies that administer the housing choice voucher program through 14 performance indicators that show whether these agencies enable eligible families to afford decent rental units at a reasonable subsidy cost as intended by the federal housing legislation.

During her board meeting presentation yesterday, Program and Housing Division manager Zerlyn A. Taimanao disclosed that the agency got a 93 rating as indicated in HUD's letter.

According to Taimanao, the

high performance rating is between 90 to 130, which is the highest possible score to be received by any housing agency.

"It justifies that we're doing everything right... Because of our high score, it shows that the [Program and Housing Division] staff is doing things right," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Corporate director Joshua Sasamoto disclosed that this was the first time the Section 8 program got a high mark since its inception. Section 8 allows low-income families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. He said the program's high performance rating arises from a previous "troubled state."

Sasamoto thanked the board for its continued support, citing that the high performance rating was a direct result of the efforts of both the board and the Program and Housing Division.

"Things worked out as we planned. Thank you for your support. Things continue to go well in that program," he added.

Mother, son released as govt had no idea why they were arrested

A mother and son who were arrested on Saipan early Monday morning were taken to the Superior Court yesterday but the prosecution had no idea why the two were apprehended.

This prompted Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos to release Jennifer Palacios and her son, Robert Jake Palacios.

The two were taken to court for a Gerstein hearing—a type

of hearing where the arrest of a suspect was done without an arrest warrant. In this proceeding, the judge will determine if there is probable cause to continue to detain the defendant.

Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest told the court that there was no paperwork about the two's arrest so he moved for their release from jail.

When asked by *Saipan Tri-*

bune about the matter, Ernest said the Department of Public Safety is sometimes slow in transmitting paperwork.

"In this case, it may have been in our office and not transmitted to my files before I left for court in the morning. I do know that I didn't have the usual file prepared documenting the reasons for the arrest," Ernest said.

He expressed belief that as-

sistant attorney general Russell Lorfing spoke with police officers and that Lorfing had recommended that the Palacios be released.

"If we do wish to proceed later, we can file a penal summons. So, while I personally wasn't aware of the facts of the case, I believe an attorney in my office did speak with the officers," he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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St. Lorenzo Ruiz to be enthroned at Mt. Carmel Cathedral

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Catholic faithful on Saipan are invited to take part in the enthronement of St. Lorenzo Ruiz at the Mount Carmel Cathedral during an 11am Mass on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Also known as San Lorenzo de Manila, St. Lorenzo Ruiz was a layman who was executed along with 15 other companions after refusing to renounce his faith.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz was beatified in Manila by Pope John Paul II during his papal visit to Manila on Feb. 19, 1981. He was later canonized on Oct. 18, 1987.

The first Filipino saint and martyr was also proclaimed by the Catholic Bishops' Con-

ference of the Philippines as the patron saint of overseas Filipino workers, Filipino migrants, the youth, and those living in poverty.

Bishop Tomas Camacho will officiate the Eucharistic celebration, with Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez to serve as an alternate and Rev. Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr. to do the homily.

Sunday's event is organized by the Saipan Simbang Gabi Group in collaboration with the Philippine Consul General and the United Filipino Organization.

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group president Mar Pacson disclosed that the enthronement preparations were initiated in November by the late Rev. Fr. Manuel Corcuera, who was then the Apostolic Administrator of the

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

The scheduled Mass, usually celebrated in Tagalog, will be performed in English, said Pacson.

"We want to accommodate everyone who wants to participate in this important occasion," Pacson told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Pacson, there

will be a procession of the St. Lorenzo Ruiz image from the outside going inside the cathedral.

The image is currently housed in the Philippine Consul General office at Marianas Business Plaza.

The Mass will be followed by lunch at the Joeten-Daidai So-

cial Hall, said Pacson.

Souvenir shirts in different sizes will be available for sale from any coordinator of the Saipan Simbang Gabi Group.

Pacson said that the CNMI is fortunate since it is only the fifth place to receive the image of St. Lorenzo Ruiz from the San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry,

which propagates and promotes the devotion to San Lorenzo Ruiz to the world. The other four were Singapore, Macau, Hong Kong, and Guam.

Pacson encouraged Filipinos on island and the rest of the community to take part in this historic event.

"Let us take pride in being Filipinos and in having our first Filipino saint, St. Lorenzo Ruiz," added Pacson.

Man gets 2 years for 'ice' possession, violating probation

A man accused of "ice" trafficking and violating his probation pleaded guilty yesterday and was sentenced to two years in prison without parole.

Pedro Rediall Demapan pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance and violating his probation as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associ-

ate Judge Perry B. Inos sentenced Demapan to two years in prison without parole in the drug case and one year in prison for probation violation, to be served concurrently. This means Demapan will serve a total of two years for both cases.

Demapan was also directed to pay a \$2,000 fine, undergo

counseling at the Community Guidance Center, and complete a substance abuse program.

Joseph Norita Camacho, counsel for Demapan, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that his client decided to limit his exposure by accepting the plea agreement.

Camacho said the plea agreement consolidated Demapan's current case of trafficking "ice" with a possible sentence of 25 years and revocation of his three past cases with a possible sentence of seven years.

"This is the case where Mr. Demapan was to give his testimony in Chamorro. As his attorney I would have loved to present the case to the jury in Chamorro. I support Mr. Demapan's decision to accept the

two years sentence as it is his personal decision to do so," Camacho said.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Demapan with trafficking of a controlled substance and conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance arising from an incident on July 12, 2010 on Saipan.

Police said that members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force had used a cooperating source to buy \$100 worth of "ice" from Demapan. It was Demapan's co-defendant, Sylvan Magofna Cabrera, who allegedly showed up at the agreed meeting place in Chalan Kanoa. Cabrera's jury trial will be on March 7, 2011. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Tinian beach red-flagged; Mañagaha gets green flag

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Unai Chulu beach on Tinian and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from this location had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the

presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 10 locations on Tinian.

The division also analyzed 11 samples from Managaha Island this week and found no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria that exceed marine water quality standards. Managaha Island gets a green flag.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*



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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold a **Special** meeting on **Friday, February 25, 2011 at 2 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **REPORTS**
- IV. **LEGAL MATTERS**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Senate Bill 17-43, SD1
 - B. Fiduciary Audit
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - Announcements
 - Next Meeting
 - Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fund says Senate measure 'clearly a private interest bill'

A bill currently pending in the Senate that seeks to provide a statutory basis for a beneficiary derivative lawsuit has been criticized by an NMI Retirement Fund official as "clearly a private business bill" that the Legislature should not pass as it would cripple trusts and retirement funds in many ways.

In a letter to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations Friday, NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the Fund opposes the bill because it will invite a barrage of lawsuits that would ultimately benefit nobody but the private lawyers who bring them.

"[Senate Bill 17-43] is clearly a private interest bill. As written it will...prevent [trusts and

retirement funds] from focusing on the business at hand, instead forcing them to continuously 'swat at flies,' cases that the trustees have already determined are not in the best interest of the trust, and will hamstring them in dealing with potential vendors who as a result of the added potential for liability will not contract with us, or will be forced to increase their rates to offset this additional potential liability," said Villagomez.

"Will professional advisors in mainstream jurisdictions want to do business with trusts and funds in the CNMI, when 90 percent of the CNMI residents are potential plaintiffs with nothing to lose and everything to gain by bringing a frivolous action against them? Of course not. It is already difficult enough

to transact business with off-island vendors who are separated from us by thousands of miles and many time zones. We do not need additional barriers to doing business such as this."

Villagomez asked the Legislature to take a more mainstream approach by modeling the bill after laws that vests the power and standing to bring such actions in the attorney general.

"This approach will ensure that valid actions may be brought by the AG when the board of trustees refuses to do so. The beneficiaries and members' interests are protected, but the legislation would create only one potential additional plaintiff, protecting judicial economy and avoiding an opening of the floodgates by the private bar," said Villagomez.

He pointed out that the AG

is in a position to separate the frivolous from the meritorious in an unbiased manner. (Moneth Deposa)

Labor finds termination of US citizen lawful

The Department of Labor has ruled that a recycling center did nothing illegal when it terminated its general manager, a U.S. citizen.

Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein, however, ordered Saipan Triple Star to pay \$1,200 to Antonio A. Reyes for unpaid vacation.

In an order issued Tuesday, Hirshbein said that Saipan Triple Star did not commit unlawful termination nor any violation of the citizen preference rule when it terminated Reyes.

"The Hearing Officer finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Reyes was replaced as GM by Vicente Duenas, a U.S. citizen. There was no wrongful termination. Likewise there was no violation of citizen preference," he said.

According to Labor records, Reyes was working as general manager for Saipan Triple Star when he was served with a termination letter on April 30, 2010, with an effective termination date of May 10, 2010.

When Reyes learned that his "replacement" was a foreign worker he decided to challenge his termination on the basis of violation of citizen worker preference.

Duenas, the current general manager, testified that he was interviewed for the position prior to May 10, 2010 and began working on May 11, 2010, the day after the effective date of Reyes's termination. Duenas testified he makes decisions about the daily operations and oversees all aspects of the business. He said he does not have purchasing or hiring and firing authority.

Reyes argued that because he lacks these duties he is a token employee.

Hirshbein disagreed that this is a token hire. While Duenas' duties may differ from those exercised by Reyes during his employment, Hirshbein said the duties described by Duenas are substantial. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Siding with democracy

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, is so imperiled that, on Monday, his son warned that mass protests risk civil war and, with it, “rivers of blood.” We hope that threat—along with Saif al-Islam Gadhafi’s bluster that his father would fight “to the last bullet”—is the regime’s dying gasp. When a wave of democratic yearning weakens an anti-U.S. dictator who has a history of supporting terrorism, Americans have cause to rejoice.

That wave is washing over other Middle Eastern nations whose autocratic governments have been upended or shaken by popular demands for reform—Tunisia, Yemen, Algeria, Morocco among them. Egypt was a tough call for U.S. diplomacy at the get-go, because of that nation’s strategic importance and its long alliance with Washington. But President Barack Obama soon grasped that President Hosni Mubarak was doomed and helped ease him aside.

Uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya may, though, prove to be the easy cases for Washington to handle. Others present complications: There is unrest too in Bahrain, a small Persian Gulf state that is home to the Navy’s Fifth Fleet. The king is a member of the dominant Sunni minority, and the government says some Shiite opposition groups have ties to the radical Islamists in Tehran. If regime change turns Bahrain into a facsimile of Iran, America will face a more perilous Persian Gulf. Despite that risk, the Obama administration pushed the Bahrain government to end the bloody crackdown it launched last week. Washington, then, clearly is siding with the democratic movement spreading over the region. That may sound like a tacit endorsement by Obama of his predecessor’s vision of a free and democratic Middle East.

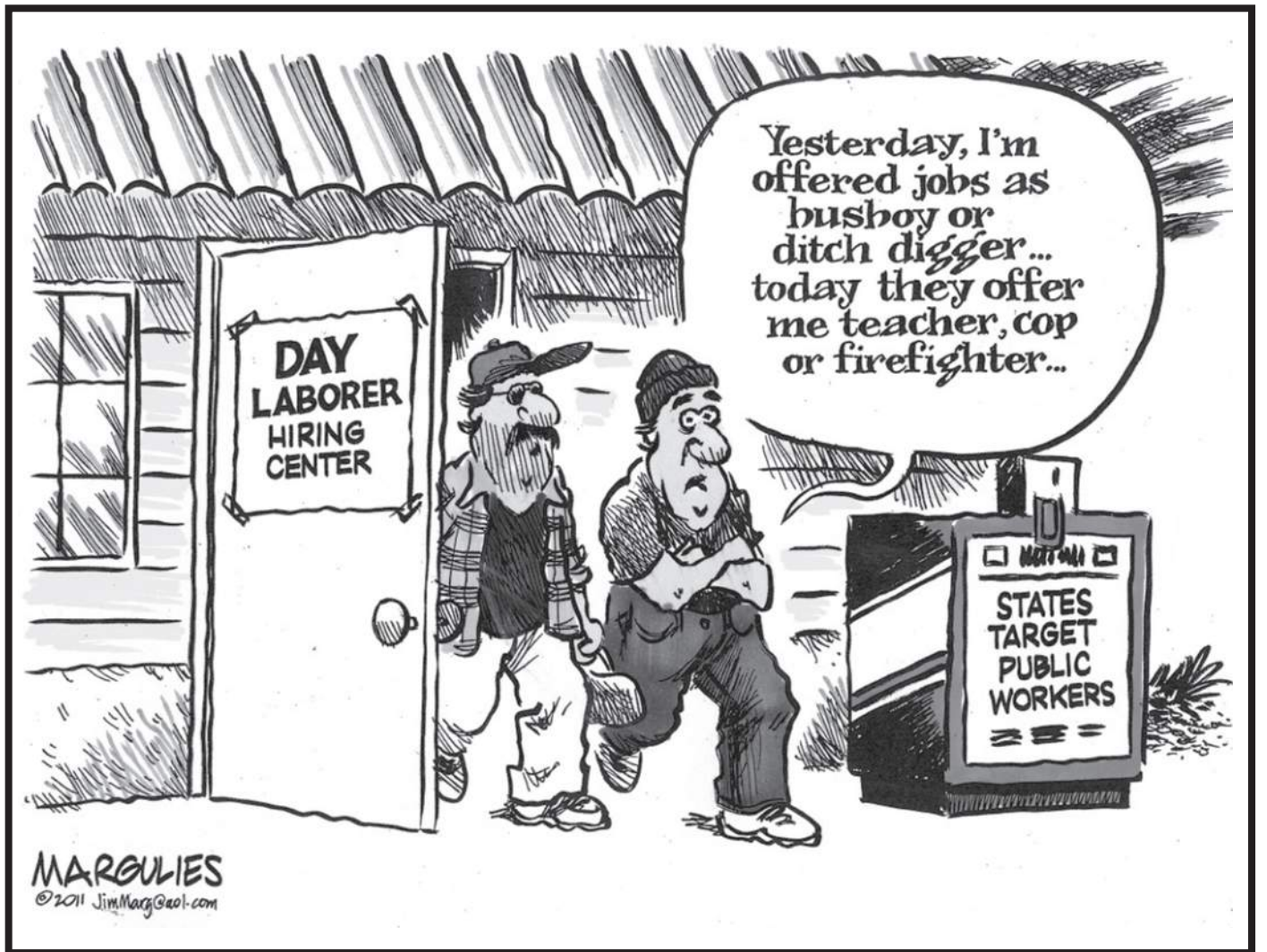
It may also sound like a naive idealism that will betray our friends and open up opportunities for our enemies. Democracy can work against U.S. interests, as shown by the Hamas victory in Palestinian elections in 2006. But in the long run, lasting reforms should produce governments that are more stable and less warlike, because they will be accountable for improving the lives of their people. Radical Islam and belligerent nationalism are often bogeymen that dictators use to distract their people from their own failures.

As this press for freedom spreads, the administration may find a situation where it cannot afford to let democratic sympathies swamp all other priorities. In a country where extremists command considerable support—Jordan comes to mind—upheaval could transfer power from a U.S.-friendly monarchy to groups that would use it to suppress democracy. That’s what happened in post-Shah Iran.

The unsatisfying takeaway here is that while the U.S. has a principled stake in the spread of democracy, it also has a duty to its own people to uphold its vital security interests even when they require cooperation with despots. That can mean placing the latter concern above the former—as we did in joining forces with Josef Stalin to defeat Adolf Hitler.

But those cases are—and need to remain—rare. Reality in today’s Middle East dictates using our leverage on behalf of reform. Two successive U.S. administrations now have affirmed

See SIDING on Next Page



People power

Stanley Karnow wrote a book titled *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines* in 1989 that is a definitive account of the journey of the people in the archipelago from the European contact to Cory Aquino’s “Yellow Presidency,” propelled 25 years ago in the People Power’s deposing of President Ferdinand Marcos. Harvard-educated and French-schooled journalist Karnow covered Europe, Africa, and the Middle East in the ’50s, and then moved to Asia in 1959. He wrote *Southeast Asia*, and *Mao and China*.

The Pulitzer Prize awardee Karnow wrote *Vietnam: A History* in 1983, revised in 1997 and remains an account of America’s imbroglio in Indochina from both sides of the Mekong. In 2007, at the AU campus in Washington DC, I attended a weeklong seminar for a network of teachers teaching Vietnam where I met Mr. Karnow. He would later send me a copy of his book on the Philippines. The teachers represented folks who supported and opposed the war (I was with the latter) but were united in the peacekeeping focus of the Vietnam Wall that Heals.

On this week’s 25th anniversary of the Philippines’ EDSA people power revolution, I am billeted on the 12th floor of the Aberdeen Court on Quezon Blvd. in Quezon City, my room looking down on the historic Aquino house with the dark green roof on Times St. For those unfamiliar with the events of February 1986, candidate Cory Aquino cried foul over blatant manipulation of the presidential election and picked up in the process the support of Marcos’ Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, and the vice-chair of the joint chiefs-of-staff, Marcos’ cousin General Fidel Ramos. The duo, with a few officers and the alleged support of U.S. intelligence, rebelled against the Marcos’ conjugal dictatorship and kleptocracy, and that shed light on the country’s dark martial law of the national soul.

Cory’s run for the presidency versus Marcos came two years after the assassination of her husband Ninoy. I was at the Manila domestic airport on my way to Legaspi City that fateful day when Ninoy returned on a symbolic passport for Marcial Bonifacio and was gunned down at the International Airport tarmac. A martyr who courageously faced his fate inflamed the democratic fervor that eventually led to his wife’s ascendancy over the tanks and the generals. That night, the only responsible thing to do was to drown our sorrows in more than our normal share of San Miguel.

Two years later, we sat with consultants at a natural resource management project in Northern Samar, including representatives of an organization that urged the nation to boycott San Miguel beer in protest against the national election irregularities. One of the consultants asked: “What would it take to topple the Marcos dictatorship?”

Being a fellow Marcos’ Ilocano and familiar with the region’s sense of solidarity, I replied that if the two Ilocanos, Enrile and Ramos, would defect, we would have a change of government. The

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



following day, that happened and the rest is history.

A month later, invited to attend a celebration tendered by the Aussies who managed the Northern Samar project, in the neighborhood of the Aquino house, one of the consultants hollered as I walked into the group: “There’s the guy; he told us what was going to happen!” What was simply common sense intuition turned out to be politically astute, so not to call attention to my accidental clairvoyance, I did my salutations quickly and left the gathering in hurry.

I remember all these in light of the recent trouncing of presidents in Tunisia and Egypt, and now, the unrest emerging in Libya, Yemen, Iran, Bahrain, and Thailand. Even in China, someone tried to trigger a gathering of supposed-to-be democracy types in major cities to protest Beijing’s hold on Asia’s Middle Kingdom. Now, Wisconsin public employees have joined the act.

Change at the top does not necessarily lead to authentic reforms. Pea Eye after Cory had West Pointer Fidel Ramos, popular movie star *Erap* Estrada, and the cute but rapacious lawyer GMA of Pangasinana occupying Malacañang; still, business as usual continues.

A colleague submitted a request to title her property 15 years ago. I tagged along while she followed up her papers at the National Land Registration office. There were 10 people in the office, two working diligently while the remaining eight, at 2pm, were twiddling their thumbs. Her papers are in a snail’s pace shuttling between Cebu and Manila offices.

In the ’80s, while working with public functionaries in strengthening public service delivery, I used to needle my audience by claiming that in every economy, there is the tolerated inefficient sector. In the Philippines, that sector is government. We hire 10 people to do the function of one; unhappily, they also influenced the public servants of the CNMI and Micronesia!

Having lived inside the DC beltway, with a spouse who worked at State, and our self later in trained workforce development participants (SS beneficiaries) in Hawaii, we know the metaphor of tolerated inefficient sector is apropos. Karnow unwittingly titled his book on the American Empire in the Philippines with precision. *In Our Image*.

People power. Around the world, many still need to discover theirs.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Answer: Who is HAL's grandfather?

When the Stanley Kubrick's movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* came out in 1968 it was a cinematic delight, and it has since been heralded as one of the greatest films ever made. In the film, the American spaceship Discovery One is bound for Jupiter on a classified mission to discover why a smooth, black monolithic stone discovered on Earth's moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. Most of Discovery's operations are run by an artificial intelligence computer named HAL 9000, or HAL for short. The movie gave a prophetic glimpse into the future, which is still many years away, even a decade after the year in its title. However, some of the science fiction has become a science reality, or is in its genesis.

In 2004, IBM executives were pressuring their research division to make a high publicity impact that would be comparable to the 1997 challenge where IBM's Deep Blue bested chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov. A team of computer scientists took on the challenge to build a computer that would eventually challenge the world's top champions in a game of Jeopardy! by understanding complex puns, humor, and difficult context in the English language, as well as master a great number of subjects. The project took endless patience to break down the way we think into small components that could be "taught" to "Watson, named after the founder Thomas J. Watson.

Last week that challenge was aired between Feb. 14 and 16, where Watson handily beat Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in the game where they seemed invincible against other human opponents. What made the story so intriguing, though, is not that Watson won, but the enormous effort needed to compete against the human brain. It took a roaring complex of computers made up of 90 IBM Power 750 Express servers powered by 8-core processors with a total process-

ing capacity of 80 teraflops—or one trillion operations per second. A Power 750 server retails for \$34,500, so the 90 servers cost about \$3 million. Watson was "fed" 200 million scanned pages of content, which is about 1 million books, movie scripts, and encyclopedias. All of this computing power was supplied by enough electricity to light up an entire town, just to approximate the question-answering part of our mind.

By comparison, the biochemical computer that sits on your shoulders has a stunning array of a trillion synapses and neurotransmitters that weigh about three pounds, is so efficient that it can operate on about 12 watts of energy (less than two typical 7-watt nightlights), and it can run for hours on a donut and can of soda.

Watson's sophistication is still far from the artificial intelligence exhibited by HAL (which interestingly, but it is only coincidence, that each of the letters of HAL's name immediately precedes those of IBM in the alphabet). According to David Ferrucci, the lead investigator to the project, Watson is a powerful computer that can store a lot of data and runs algorithms that correlate data, understand context, and find answers. Ferrucci asserts that there's no one algorithm that can replicate human thinking.

HAL, which stands for Heuristic ALgorithmic computer, had the ability to use heuristics, which is a programmable procedure that produces a well-informed guess to problem-solve situations that are not based on fixed rules. An algorithm is a programmable procedure that does produce predictable and reproducible results. It's conceivable that in several proceeding generations, Watson may spawn a future HAL-type computer that has the ability to think and reason, but minus the human paranoia and foibles that plagued HAL.

The real intent for Watson was to monetize its computing

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Tribune

Rik is a writer, life-long learner, and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



power commercially, and IBM is now collaborating with the University of Maryland, Columbia University, and Nuance Communications to develop a physician's assistant service. It will take two years to fully develop a computer that will be able to diagnose a patient's condition by using Watson's analytics technology to quickly scan the patient's health information, as well as reference materials, prior cases, and the latest research in journals and medical literature to determine the best practices and options for treatment.

Nuance is involved in cutting-edge speech recognition that will allow Watson-like computers to hear and understand people. This will help broaden its applications to call centers, emergency rooms, education, retail, risk management, financial services, and an array of government purposes. According to Katharine Frase, vice president of industry solutions and emerging business at IBM Research, "this is just the beginning of a journey."

Someday, with the knowledge gained from Watson and his progeny, that journey may take us to Jupiter and beyond.

A rush to war? Seeking answers from Rumsfeld

Perhaps the best evidence of a rush to judgment for war with Iraq came in the portrayal of then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld plotting against Saddam Hussein while sitting in a still-smoldering Pentagon on 9/11. Why, if the immediate suspicion was on Osama bin Laden, was Rumsfeld already thinking about Hussein?

This vignette was first supplied by Bob Woodward when he published "Plan of Attack" in 2004. Woodward wrote:

"At 2:40 p.m. that day, with dust and smoke filling the operations center as he was trying to figure out what happened, Rumsfeld raised with his staff the possibility of going after Iraq as a response to the terrorist attacks, according to an aide's notes. Saddam Hussein is S.H. in these notes, and UBL is Usama Bin Laden. The notes show that Rumsfeld had mused about whether to 'hit S.H. @ same time—not only UBL' and asked the Pentagon lawyer to talk to Paul Wolfowitz about the Iraq 'connection with UBL.' The next day in the inner circle of Bush's war cabinet, Rumsfeld asked if the terrorist attacks did not present an 'opportunity' to launch against Iraq."

When the 9/11 Commission released its report that same year, the portrayal was expanded upon:

"On the afternoon of 9/11, according to contemporaneous notes, Secretary Rumsfeld instructed General (Richard) Myers to obtain quickly as much information as possible. The notes indicate that he also told Myers that he was not simply interested in striking empty training sites. He thought the U.S. response should consider a wide range of options and possibilities. The secretary said his instinct was to hit Saddam Hussein at the same time—not only bin Ladin. Secretary Rumsfeld later explained that at the time, he had been considering either one of them, or perhaps someone else, as the responsible party."

The source of the 9/11 Commission depiction was notes from Victoria Clarke, a Pentagon spokeswoman, and Stephen Cambone, the undersecretary for intelligence. Cambone's notes pinpointed the discussion to 2:40 p.m. on 9/11.

Which brings us to the new No. 1 book on the New York Time's nonfiction list: "Known and Unknown," by Donald Rumsfeld. When I obtained my copy, I quickly scanned the index to see what attention Rumsfeld gave the matter. Unfortunately, there wasn't much.

"Much has been written about the Bush administration's focus on Iraq after 9/11," Rumsfeld writes. "Commentators have suggested that it was strange or obsessive for the president and his advisers to have raised questions about whether Saddam Hussein was somehow behind the attack. I have never understood the controversy. Early on, I had no idea if Iraq was or was not involved, but it would have been irresponsible for any administration not to have asked the question."

Elsewhere in the book, Rumsfeld details a conversation he had with then-CIA Director George Tenet shortly after noon on 9/11. According to Rumsfeld's recollection, Tenet said the National Security Agency had intercepted a phone call in which an al-Qaida operative said he "heard good news" about the attacks and hinted that yet another plane was poised to reach its target. Further, Rumsfeld writes that at 3:30 p.m. that day, President Bush conducted a National Security Council meeting, during which Tenet said the intelligence community was confident in its belief that al-Qaida was behind the attacks.

In other words, at noon, Tenet told Rumsfeld that there was reason to blame al-Qaida. At 2:40 p.m., Rumsfeld was nevertheless thinking about Saddam, and by 3:30 p.m., there was additional confidence that al-Qaida was responsible.

Last week, I had the opportunity to ask Rumsfeld to respond to the view that his consideration of Hussein that day was evidence of a predisposition toward war with Iraq.

Rumsfeld: "When I came to the Pentagon in January of 2001, the only country in the world that was shooting at our aircraft on a regular basis, some 2,000 times, was Iraq. So the president and the military, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were concerned about that. We had an expectation that at some point, one of our aircraft and crews would be shot down. It was very much on our minds. The United Nations during that period was engaged in resolutions trying to determine what was taking place with respect to weapons of mass destruction programs. And the country during the Clinton administration had passed legislation overwhelmingly in the Congress and signed by President Clinton calling for regime change in Iraq. The State Department had Iraq on the terrorist list during that period. And these various things came up.

tariffs if Beijing doesn't further open its markets or allow its currency to rise, making U.S. goods more attractive.

Yet the image of China as the seller that never buys is changing rapidly, as a recent batch of government numbers shows. It turns out China is one of America's biggest customers.

About 10 years ago, China was our 18th-ranked trading partner. By the end of 2010, it had risen to No. 3, which means that aside from Canada and Mexico, no other country buys more of our stuff than China. Since January 2006, U.S. exports to China have tripled.

The U.S. may import more from China than any other country, but the changing picture on the export side should give caution to

By **MICHAEL SMERCONISH**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.



"The president called me up on Sept. 11 and said this is going to come to the Department of Defense soon, and we want you to be thinking about it. Needless to say, there were some discussions, not anything extensive, but the subject did come up."

I then read to Rumsfeld the relevant portion of the 9/11 Commission report, and suggested that at the time of his plotting about Saddam he already knew or suspected that the attacks were actually the work of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

"We did not know precisely, but the CIA was speculating at that point that they thought it was al-Qaida, and it turned out to be correct," he replied.

"I do remember shortly thereafter we were up at Camp David and someone brought up the subject of Iraq and the president very precisely said, 'Look, we are not interested in Iraq. We are interested in al-Qaida,' and that was the focus, the entire discussion at the Pentagon during that period."

I then asked, "To those who say it is evidence of you having been predisposed toward taking out Saddam Hussein regardless of any involvement relative to Sept. 11, you would say what?"

"That's nonsense. I was not predisposed to doing anything. 9/11 was a surprise. What we were doing during that period while the building was still burning was trying to figure out what was happening, who was responsible, and it became very clear very quickly that Saddam Hussein was not involved and we discuss this in the book in some detail."

I know better than to think that will settle the matter. But at least now the record is complete and ready for debate.

SIDING

From Page 10

that as the American default. That's good of the people of the region—and for U.S. interests, too.

(c) 2011, Chicago Tribune

In a trade war with China, we all would lose

Over the last several years, many in Congress have become frustrated with the large trade deficit with China. Some have threatened punitive

all those inclined to deal with our trade problems with ham-handed measures such as tariffs.

A trade war with China wouldn't merely reduce Chinese imports, denying choices and bargains to American consumers. China would undoubtedly reply with tariffs of its own, and Americans would pay in the form of lost jobs.

We have legitimate commercial issues with Beijing, but they should be pursued through the normal dispute-resolution channels of the World Trade Organization—not through measures that risk sparking a trade war during which both sides would lose.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

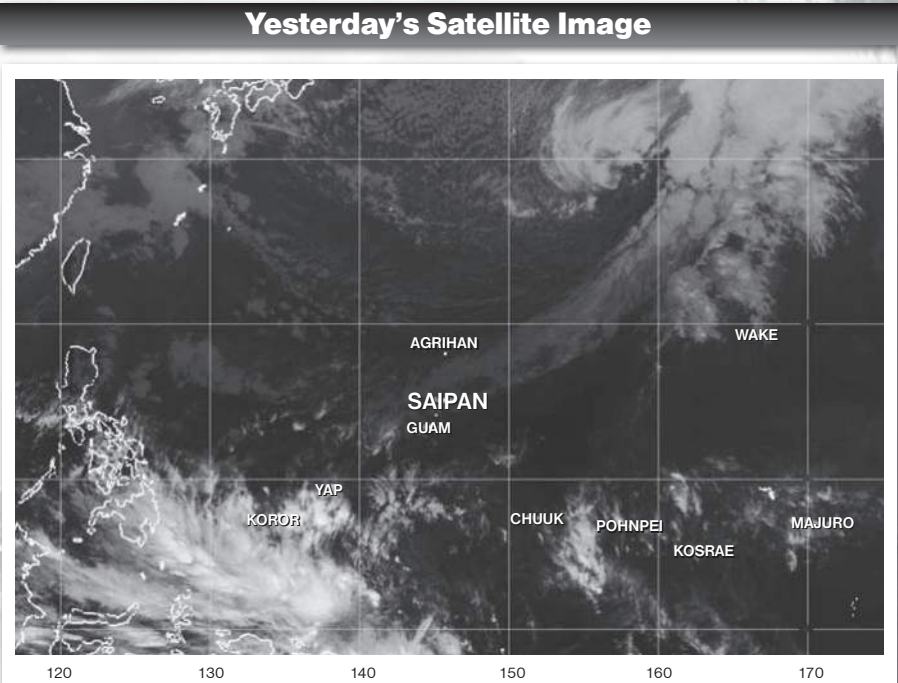
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 75
Palau	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 44
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 54
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 65
New York	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 38
Osaka	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 45
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 43
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Rome	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 35
Salem	Ice	▲ 39 ▼ 25
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 45

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front transitioning to a shear line runs from north of 25N160E through 17N150E to 14N140E passing very close to Saipan. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary from near Minami Tori Shima to about 90 miles northwest of Guam. A near-equatorial trough in the vicinity of Koror and just south of Yap extends eastward from 6N130E to 3N144E. A weak circulation is located southeast of Yap near 5N142E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are located from the trough axis to the equator including Koror and west of 142E further to the east. Scattered showers associated with a weak trade-wind trough are located between Chuuk and Pohnpei from 2N to 7N between 153 and 157E east of Pohnpei. Scattered showers associated with the ITCZ are located between 6N and 10N from 160E to the dateline. This is north of Kosrae but covers portions of Pohnpei state and the Marshalls including Kwajalein and Majuro. However, the weather remains very dry in the area south of 4N and east of 165E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Today	10:58 AM	
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Friday	12:20 AM	11:52 AM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Saturday	1:18 AM	12:47 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Sunday	2:12 AM	1:42 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Monday	3:03 AM	2:37 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am 3:35am
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am 7:25am
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am 7:50am
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am 10:55am
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm 2:30pm
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm 5:50pm
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm 8:50pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:05pm
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm 12:20am+1
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm 12:30am+1
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm 1:50am+1
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm 1:55am+1
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am 2:20pm
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am 12:20am+1
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am 8:50pm
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:00am+1
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:30am+1
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:25am+1
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:50am+1
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:25am+1
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:50am+1
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm 7:50am+1
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm 7:50am+1
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am 2:20pm
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am 2:20pm
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:00am+1
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:30am+1
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm 7:50am+1
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Guam-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Business

Obama pitches economic message one state at a time

CLEVELAND (AP)—Twenty months ahead of the 2012 election, President Barack Obama is traveling the nation, vying for the public's attention one state at a time, while international crises and budget fights compete with his plans for economic revival.

On Tuesday, Obama curried

favor with small businesses in politically important Ohio, pushing his plans to boost American competitiveness by increasing spending on sectors like education and infrastructure. That agenda, however, is running up against opposition from some Republican governors in cash-strapped states,

and GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill, whose demands for deep spending cuts raise the prospect of a federal government shutdown.

The president's domestic initiatives have also been overshadowed by the turmoil in the Middle East. Tuesday's trip came amid an escalation of violence in Libya,

where government-backed security forces clashed with protesters, and news that four Americans were killed at the hands of pirates off the coast of Africa.

Since his State of the Union address last month, Obama has traveled away from Washington at least once a week, mostly

stopping in political battleground states that will be crucial to his re-election bid, including Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. He plans a trip to Florida next week.

As was the case during the 2008 campaign, Obama aides are willing to forego national media headlines in favor of

mostly positive coverage in local media outlets in regions the president visits. They're also courting the press in swing states even when Obama is not on the road, inviting reporters from local television stations in Virginia, Wisconsin and Ohio to the White House for interviews last week.

Libya unrest rattles markets; oil prices jump

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks had their worst drop this year and oil prices surged Tuesday after Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi clung to power in the face of mounting protests.

The capital of the oil-rich country has plunged into chaos. That's causing to concerns that the unrest that has already toppled dictators in two of Libya's neighbors, Tunisia and Egypt, could spread to other countries in the region like Iran and disrupt the flow of oil. Oil prices jumped 6 percent to \$95 a barrel. Libya is the world's 15th largest exporter of crude, accounting for 2 percent of global daily output. It also has the largest oil reserves in Africa.

The Dow Jones industrial average sank 178.46 points, or 1.4 percent, to close at 12,212.79. It was the biggest drop since Nov. 16. Bond prices rose as investors sought safety.

Gadhafi vowed to fight to his "last drop of blood" and roared at his supporters to take to the streets against protesters demanding his ouster. A violent crackdown in Tripoli has resulted in wild shooting and bodies



Traders work the crude oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011 in New York.

in the streets. Protesters backed by defecting army units claimed control over the eastern half of Libya's Mediterranean coast.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 27.57, or 2 percent, to 1,315.44. It was the S&P's worst day since Aug. 11.

The Nasdaq fell 77.53, or 2.7

percent, to 2,756.42.

The main worry among traders is that unrest will spread to other oil-rich countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Protests are continuing in Yemen and Bahrain.

Jim Ritterbusch, an energy analyst, said a "fear premium"

has added about \$10 a barrel to oil prices in recent days. Prices could tumble once the region settles down, he said.

Oil producers rose with the prospect of a drop in oil supply. Chevron Corp. gained 1.6 percent, the largest gain among the 30 large companies that make

up the Dow Jones industrial average. Exxon Mobil Corp. rose 1 percent.

Higher fuel costs hurt airline stocks. Delta Air Lines Inc., American Airlines parent AMR Corp., United Continental Holdings Inc. and US Airways Group Inc. all dropped by 5 percent or more.

Investors drove into the relative safety of Treasuries, pushing their prices higher and lowering their yields. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.46 percent from 3.59 percent late Friday.

Brian Bethune, an economist at IHS Global Insight, said a \$10 rise in the price of oil subtracts roughly 0.4 percentage point from economic growth. An increase to \$150 or \$160 a barrel could knock the economy into a recession, Bethune and other economists say.

Higher oil prices also pinch U.S. consumers by pushing up the price of gas. "This puts a damper on consumer optimism, which is really critical at this stage of the recovery," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. fell 3

Oil-rich countries

Libya holds the ninth-most proven oil reserves in the world and is a major exporter to Europe; oil reserves for 2009, in billions of barrels per day:

Saudi Arabia	266.7
Canada	178.1
Iran	136.2
Iraq	115.0
Kuwait	104.0
Venezuela	99.4
United Arab Emirates	97.8
Russia	60.0
Libya	43.7
Nigeria	36.2
Kazakhstan	30.0
United States	19.1

© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Judy Treible

percent after revenue at stores open at least a year fell for the seventh straight quarter. That raised worries about the company's ability to turn around its U.S. business this year.

Reid proposes 30-day bill to avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top Democrat in the Senate said Tuesday that he'll bring legislation to the floor next week to keep the government running at current spending levels for 30 days to avoid a shutdown in March.

The move by Majority Leader Harry Reid is in keeping with longstanding tradition, but it was immediately rejected by GOP leaders who assailed the Nevada Democrat for freezing spending at levels inflated by generous budget increases provided under President Barack Obama.

A short-term bill is required because the House on Saturday passed a \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending bill to finance the gov-

ernment through Sept. 30. That measure would slash domestic agency budgets by more than \$60 billion over the last seven months of the budget year, which would lead to widespread furloughs of federal workers and dismantle a host of environmental regulations.

It will take weeks or even months to work out differences on the massive spending bill, thus requiring the stopgap bill.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, rejected Reid's proposal, which was revealed in a politically freighted statement charging that Boehner is maneuvering the government toward a shutdown by insisting on immediate spending cuts.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Credit card regulation offers hits and misses

NEW YORK (AP)—Credit card customers are facing fewer interest rate hikes and forking over sharply less in late fees. A year after new regulations curbed a spate of questionable billing practices, federal officials say over-the-limit penalty charges have also been dramatically curtailed. The findings were released by the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which will administer the regulations once it's officially up and running this summer. The agency focused only on the impact of specific regulations, however, and did not look at the full scope of costs custom-

ers pay for cards. For example, new credit card accounts are now more likely to come with annual fees and higher interest rates. That could offset the savings noted by the consumer watchdog. The regulations have also greatly reduced available credit for riskier customers, the American Bankers Association noted in a release.

Japan posts first trade deficit in 22 months

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's exports grew at their weakest pace in more than a year in January, resulting in the country's first trade deficit in 22 months. Exports expanded by 1.4 percent to 4.971 trillion yen (\$60 billion), compared with a

Consumer comeback skips Wal-Mart's aisles

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is missing out on the consumer comeback. The world's largest retailer failed to reverse an almost two-year slide in a key revenue measure in its fourth quarter, it said Tuesday, after all but promising in November

it would do just that. At Wal-Mart, fewer customers are coming in the door. At most other retailers, holiday shoppers spent more, and consumer confidence is now at its highest point in three years. Wal-Mart's mistakes in merchandise and prices, along with financial stress on its lower-income customers, forced it to rely on international growth and cost-cutting to post a 27 percent increase in fourth-quarter net income. Wal-Mart's 1.8 percent decline in revenue at U.S. discount stores open at least a year, its seventh straight quarterly drop, was worse than feared. That important measurement of a retailer's health excludes stores that open or close during the year.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,212.80	1,315.44	2,756.42
-178.46	-27.57	-77.53
-1.44%	-2.05%	-2.74%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9968	Indian Rupee	45.1745	Singapore Dollar	1.2770
	British Pound	0.6166	Indonesian Rupiah	8,853.3	South Korean Won	1,124.2
	Canadian Dollar	0.9891	Japanese Yen	82.6583	Swiss Franc	0.9372
	Chinese Yuan	6.5757	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0306	Taiwan Dollar	29.5695
	Euro	0.7292	New Zealand Dollar	1.3369	Thailand Baht	30.6231

Nation

Emanuel beats rivals to become next Chicago mayor

CHICAGO (AP)—Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel was elected mayor of Chicago on Tuesday, easily overwhelming five rivals to take the helm of the nation's third-largest city as it prepares to chart a new course without the retiring Richard M. Daley.

Emanuel trounced all opponents with 55 percent of the vote—a margin that allowed him to avoid an April runoff. He needed more than 50 percent to win outright.

It was the city's first mayoral race in more than 60 years without an incumbent on the ballot and the first in more than two decades without Daley among the candidates. Daley and his father have led Chicago for more than 43 out of the last 56 years.

Emanuel called the victory “humbling” and said the outgoing mayor had “earned a special place in our hearts and our history.”

But he added: “We have not won anything until a kid can go to school thinking of their studies and not their safety. Until the parent of that child is thinking about their work and not where they are going to find work, we have not won anything.”

Reginald Bachus, the 51-year-old pastor of a West Side church who voted for Emanuel, said the next four years will be “a very critical time for Chicago.”

“We really need a mayor who has vision. It's my personal opinion everyone else would have been a manager, and I think Rahm has vision,” Bachus said.

The other major candidates—former Chicago schools president Gery Chico, former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and City Clerk Miguel del Valle—had hoped to force a runoff that would have extended the cam-



Former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel speaks at his election night party, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011 in Chicago.

paigned for six more weeks. But they were no match for Emanuel's momentum and money.

Chico had 24 percent of the vote compared with 9 percent for both del Valle and Braun. Two lesser-known candidates got 1 and 2 percent each.

The campaign began last fall when Daley—with an ailing wife, six terms under his belt and a future in which Chicago's fiscal challenges loomed large—announced he would not seek re-election.

Emanuel, a 51-year-old married father of three, will be the city's first Jewish mayor when he takes office on May 16. He's a well-known figure in national Democratic politics, having worked for two presidents and represented Chicago's North Side in the House of Represen-

tatives for three terms.

He's also known as an abrasive, often profane political operative with a famous take-no-prisoners style that was even parodied on “Saturday Night Live.”

But Emanuel was on his best behavior on the campaign trail, where his swagger and hard edges gave way to unusual calm.

He visited all 50 wards and made regular stops at all the city's elevated train stations. He talked confidently about local issues—mass transit, bike paths and after-school programs—and refused to be goaded.

His lead in the polls grew and so did his campaign, becoming a \$13 million juggernaut.

All three of his main rivals tried to put Emanuel on the defensive, casting him as an out-

sider and questioning his temperament. But he stayed above the fray, and his celebrity made it hard for the criticism to gain any traction.

Emanuel had just been elected to his fourth term in Congress when he resigned in 2008 to work for President Barack Obama, a fellow Chicagoan. It was a job he held until he resigned in October 2010 to run for mayor. He had also worked as a top aide to Bill Clinton.

Obama quickly sent his congratulations to the mayor-elect. “As a Chicagoan and a friend, I couldn't be prouder,” the president said in a statement. “Rahm will be a terrific mayor for all the people of Chicago.”

Emanuel's relationship with Obama won him votes from a number of people who believed his White House connections would be an advantage.

Wis. Dems try to stall bargaining rights bill

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—With their Senate colleagues still in hiding, Democrats in the Wisconsin Assembly began introducing a barrage of 100 amendments Tuesday to try to stymie the Republican governor's plan to strip unionized public employees of most of their bargaining rights.

Both houses of the GOP-controlled Legislature convened shortly before noon amid noisy protests outside the state Capitol that began more than a week ago in an epic showdown that is being watched nervously by organized labor across the country.

The Senate was unable to take up the union measure because its 14 Democrats skipped town last week, denying the chamber a quorum. But Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald pledged that his chamber would approve the bill this week, despite the blizzard of Democratic amendments.

Turning up the pressure on the Democrats, Gov. Scott Walker warned that state employees could start receiving layoff notices as early as next week if the bill isn't passed soon. The layoffs couldn't take effect immediately—existing union contracts could forestall them for weeks or months—and Walker wouldn't say which jobs he would go after first.

“Hopefully we don't get to that point,” the governor said in a statement.

Borrowing the strategy pioneered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Walker took his

case straight to the voters Tuesday evening with a speech from his Capitol office that he called a “fireside chat.” With protesters drowning out his message as it was played over monitors in the rotunda, Walker calmly laid out his case for the bill, saying it was needed to balance the state's budget now and into the future.

“It certainly isn't a battle with unions,” Walker said. “If it was, we would have eliminated collective bargaining entirely or we would have gone after the private-sector unions.”

Walker warned of “dire consequences” if the Democrats don't return soon to pass the bill, saying up to 1,500 state workers could be laid off by July with another 6,000 forced out of work over the next two years.

One of the missing Democrats, Minority Leader Mark Miller, delivered his own response from Illinois.

“The only action available to us to slow this down and allow democracy to work was to take us out of the Capitol,” he said.

While Wisconsin remained the main front in the national debate over union rights, similar battles were taking shape in other states. In Indiana, House Democrats walked out of the Statehouse on Tuesday, blocking a GOP-backed bill against mandatory union dues. Only three of the 40 Democratic members of the chamber were present, depriving it of a quorum.

Marshals release photo of alleged Tucson shooter

PHOENIX (AP)—The U.S. Marshals Service released a new image Tuesday of the man suspected of shooting U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, killing six people and wounding a dozen others near Tucson last month.

The photo shows Jared Loughner in front of a block cinder wall, wearing a mustard colored jail uniform with a white T-shirt underneath. His hair is slightly grown out and he has a cut on his right forehead.

Last week, U.S. District Judge Larry A. Burns said he was leaving it up to the marshals to decide whether to release the mug shot of the 22-year-old Loughner taken in Phoenix while Loughner was in the agency's custody.

Several media organizations received the photo from the marshals Tuesday. The Associated Press did not immediately obtain a copy.

The previously unreleased

photo is a different image than the mug shot released by the Pima County Sheriff's Office taken two days after Loughner was arrested.

Defense attorneys had argued against releasing the new photo, saying it invades Loughner's



This photo released Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, by the U.S. Marshal's Service shows Jared Loughner. The photo was taken in Phoenix while Loughner was in the agency's custody.

privacy and doesn't serve any legitimate public interest. In addition, mug shots reveal people at their most humiliating moments, the lawyers said.

Burns said he did not agree the photo would invade Loughner's privacy or harm his chance at a fair trial, but he said he didn't have the authority to rule on the matter because the 6th Circuit requires the U.S. Marshals Service to release the photo.

“We're making these pictures seem way more ominous than they really are,” Burns said, adding the second mug shot is much “tamer” than the first one that has been widely circulated on the Internet. That photo showed Loughner wide eyed and smiling.

The Jan. 8 attack outside a Tucson-area grocery store also left a federal judge, an aide to Giffords and a 9-year-old girl dead. Loughner has pleaded not guilty to federal charges in the case.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ariz. Senate committee mull 3 immigration bills

PHOENIX (AP)—A sweeping bill that targets illegal immigrants in public housing, public benefits and the workplace drew vocal opposition Tuesday from Democrats who say its sponsor is plotting his political strategy and not focused on Republicans' stated top priority, the economy. “We should be thinking about turning around Arizona's economy, not running for higher office,” said Sen. Richard Miranda of Tolleson, taking a swipe at what many believe is Republican Senate President Russell Pearce's interest when he leaves the Legislature. “Is this about fighting the drug cartels at the border or is it about blaming a group for all the state's problems?”

Fla. Police: Dispute over Thin Mints gets physical

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—Police say a brawl between roommates over Girl Scout cookies led to assault charges against one of them. According to the Naples Daily News, the Collier County Sheriff's Office reports that 31-year-old Hersha Howard woke up her roommate early Sunday

and accused her of eating her Thin Mints. They argued and deputies say that it turned physical with Howard chasing her roommate with scissors and hitting her repeatedly with a board and then a sign. Police say the roommate's husband tried to separate them. The roommate said she gave the cookies to Howard's children.

3 plead not guilty in Calif. murder-for-hire plot

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Three men accused of plotting to murder a Southern California couple in what a prosecutor called “another glaring example of cross-border violence” have pleaded not guilty in San Diego. Prosecutors said Tuesday that 28-year-old Jorge Sillas, 29-year-old Victor Gonzalez, and 34-year-old Danny Cepallo (seh-PIE'-yo) were working on the orders of the Arellano Felix cartel, one of Mexico's oldest and once most powerful drug trafficking organizations. Sillas' older brother, 33-year-old Juan Sillas, is one of Tijuana's most feared hitmen. He has not been charged but the complaint said he offered to pay an assassin \$50,000 for the killings.

Asia

NZ earthquake death toll at 75 as search continues

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—Some screamed from inside collapsed buildings. One woman used her mobile phone to call her children to say goodbye. Others tapped on the rubble to communicate with those on the outside.

Search teams using their bare hands, dogs, heavy cranes and earth movers worked frantically on Wednesday in one of New Zealand's largest cities to find survivors of a powerful earthquake as officials raised the death toll to at least 75.

Rescuers pulled nearly three dozen survivors from amid the crumbled concrete, twisted metal and huge mounds of brick across Christchurch.

Officials feared that the death toll could rise further, ranking the 6.3-magnitude earthquake among the island nation's worst in 80 years. They say at least 100 more people are missing.

"There are bodies littering the streets, they are trapped in cars, crushed under rubble and where they are clearly deceased our focus ... has turned to the living," police Superintendent Russell Gibson said.

Asked how many may still be trapped, he said: "It could be another hundred—it could be more."

Gibson said 39 bodies had been identified at a temporary morgue at the central police station. Prime Minister John Key said at least 75 people had been killed, and Gibson said the final figure "will be considerably higher than that."

Rescuers are concentrating on at least a dozen buildings that collapsed or were badly damaged. Urban search and rescue coordinator Paul Burt said at least 32 trapped people had been rescued from collapsed buildings overnight, and several more bodies had also been recovered.

Some survivors have emerged without a scratch, while others had to have a limb amputated before they could be freed.

Medical workers brought the injured to a triage center set up in a park in central Christchurch, while military units patrolled near-empty streets disfigured by the huge cracks and canyons created in Tuesday's quake, the second powerful temblor to hit the city in five months.

The quake toppled the spire of the city's historic stone cathedral, flattened tall buildings and sent chunks of concrete and bricks hurtling onto cars, buses and pedestrians below.

"People were covered in rubble, covered in several tons of concrete," said web designer Nathaniel Boehm, who was outside on his lunch break when the quake struck just before 1 p.m. He saw the eaves of buildings cascade onto the street, burying people below.

"It was horrific," he said.

Mall worker Tom Brittenden told of how he had helped pull victims from the rubble in the immediate aftermath of the quake.

"There was a lady outside we tried to free with a child," Brittenden told National Radio. "A big bit of concrete or brick had fallen on her and she was holding her child. She was gone. The baby was taken away."

The multistory Pyne Gould Guinness Building, housing more than 200 workers, collapsed. Rescuers, many of them office workers, dragged severely injured people out. Many had blood streaming down their faces. Screams could be heard from those still trapped inside.

The earthquake knocked out power and telephone lines and burst pipes, flooding the streets with water.

Firefighters climbed ladders to pluck people trapped on roofs of office towers to safety.

Plumes of gray smoke drifted into the air from fires burning in the rubble, and helicopters used giant buckets to drench them with water.

The quake even shook off a massive chunk of ice from the country's biggest glacier some

120 miles (190 kilometers) east of Christchurch. Christchurch's airport reopened for domestic flights on Wednesday. Military flights were being added to move tourists to other cities.

Thousands of people in the city moved into temporary

shelters at schools and community halls. Others, including tourists who had abandoned their hotels, huddled in hastily pitched tents and under plastic sheeting as drizzling rain fell, while the Red Cross tried to find them accommodation.

Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said 300 people were listed as missing but cautioned that they did not know the number trapped in collapsed buildings. More than 400 rescue workers were joining the search, including teams from Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States and Britain.

Some who were trapped were able to call out using their mobile phones, reaching family, officials and media.

"I rang my kids to say goodbye," said Ann Voss, interviewed by TV3 from underneath her desk where she was trapped in a collapsed office building. "It was absolutely horrible. My daughter was crying and I was crying because I honestly thought that was it."

"You know, you want to tell them you love them don't you?"

Voss said she could hear other people still alive in the building and had called out to them and communicated by knocking on rubble.

"I'm not going to give up," she said. "I'm going to stay awake now. They better come and get me."



Emergency workers clock off a damaged building in Christchurch, New Zealand, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011. AP

ASEAN to send monitors to Thai-Cambodia border

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Military observers will be sent to the Thai-Cambodian border to enforce an unofficial cease-fire in place since deadly clashes erupted near a disputed 11th century temple, Southeast Asian foreign ministers said Tuesday after emergency talks. Each country has accused the other of starting the conflict in which at least eight people have been killed and thousands displaced, and both until now have disagreed on how it should be settled.

But Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said after a meeting with the

10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations that both Cambodia and Thailand had agreed to a proposal to send up to 40 military and civilian observers to the remote, mountainous area.

The unarmed observers—all from Indonesia—will "observe the commitment by both sides to avoid further armed clashes" and provide accurate and impartial reports about complaints of violations, he told reporters after the 90-minute meeting in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

The conflict this month involving exchanges of small arms, mortars and artillery fire is rooted in a decades-old border dispute near the Preah Vi-

hear temple that has fueled nationalist passions on both sides.

The monument was built between the 9th and 11th centuries and sits atop a 1,722-foot (525-meter) cliff. While the temple was awarded to Cambodia by the World Court in 1962, sovereignty over adjacent areas has never been clearly resolved.

Skirmishes have erupted several times since 2008, when Preah Vihear was awarded U.N. World Heritage status, but soldiers and locals say none has been as violent as the latest clash. The U.N. Security Council expressed "grave concern" Monday and gave strong backing to the efforts of ASEAN—which usually refrains from

interfering in the internal affairs of member states—to help end the dispute.

Natalegawa indicated the regional grouping was ready to play its part.

"We are meant to resolve our problems through negotiations," he told reporters. "We are waging peace. That's what we are doing, not waging war so that no more guns and artillery make a sound in our region."

"I would like to make it absolutely clear that ... the option of conflict, the option of use of force, is not meant to be on the table," he said.

While no formal cease-fire has been signed, the border has been quiet in recent days.

PH offers to fly citizens home from Libya

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government raised Tuesday the alert level for its nationals in Libya, offering to fly home 30,000 Filipino workers amid a bloody crackdown on protests calling for an end to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

Officials earlier said the deployment of workers to Libya, Bahrain and Yemen have been indefinitely deferred due to the unrest there.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said Filipinos living in Tripoli who wish to leave should contact the embassy and ask to be repatriated. He asked Filipinos not to leave without informing the embassy or their community coordinators.

He urged Filipinos in Libya to remain indoors and not go out alone in the streets. If their companies have repatriation arrangements, they are advised to join those repatriation efforts.

"As long as the airport in Tripoli is open, we will fly them from there," Conejos said. Other exit routes being eyed include Libya's borders with Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Sudan and Nigeria, he added.

Voluntary repatriation only applies in Libya despite parallel protests in nearby Yemen and Bahrain, he added.

Some 15,000 Filipinos are concentrated in the capital Tripoli and areas around it. Another 10,000 are in Benghazi and 5,000 in Al-Bayda and small

towns in between, the department's data show.

Some 95 percent of the Filipinos there are professionals including doctors, nurses and engineers while the others are skilled workers in equipment operations and in the oil and gas industries.

The foreign affairs and labor departments have committed a \$175,000-dollar fund for the operation and the government has requested the International Organization for Migration to assist in arranging flights for Filipinos wishing to leave Egypt.

Nearly 10 percent of the Philippines' 94 million people work abroad, sending home billions of dollars that fuel domestic spending and economic growth.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tourists stay away from storm-battered Queensland

SYDNEY (AP)—Dream holiday destination Queensland has a new nightmare. The flood waters have receded, the cyclone's fury is long spent—the welcome mat is out again. But tourists are staying away in droves. "We saw all the floods and thought we might be in danger," said Ben Davis, 21, who's in Australia on a year-long work and holiday visa with his girlfriend, Danielle Hodgson. The English couple planned a short jaunt to Sydney before heading to the tropical paradise of Australia's northeast coast. But one week has turned into six—and counting—as they watched first one, then a second natural disaster unfold in Queensland state and decided Sydney was a safer bet.

Beijing says most Chinese want political stability

BEIJING (AP)—The Foreign Ministry in Beijing has refused to comment directly on calls for a so-called 'Jasmine Revolution' in China but said nothing could shake the majority's desire for po-

litical stability and harmony. Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu sidestepped a reporter's question at a regular press briefing on Tuesday about recent online calls for protests in 13 cities. He said Tuesday the topic wasn't a foreign affairs issue. But he added that most Chinese people crave social and political stability and want to live and work in peace and contentment. "This is something that no person or force can shake," Ma said.

Malaysian experiment releases 3 orangutans in wild

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian researchers are testing whether three young orangutans reared in captivity can adapt to life in the wild outside Borneo. The project is spearheaded by a private foundation that runs Orangutan Island, a research center and tourist attraction in northern peninsular Malaysia. The facility has bred orangutans in captivity over the past decade despite criticism by animal rights groups that it should focus instead on conservation programs to protect existing orangutans in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra.

World

Gadhafi's vow: Will fight to 'last drop of blood'

CAIRO (AP)—A defiant Moammar Gadhafi vowed to fight to his “last drop of blood” and roared at supporters to strike back against Libyan protesters to defend his embattled regime Tuesday, signaling an escalation of the crackdown that has thrown the capital into scenes of mayhem, wild shooting and bodies in the streets.

The speech by the Libyan leader—who shouted and pounded his fists on the podium—was an all-out call for his backers to impose control over the capital and take back other cities. After a week of upheaval, protesters backed by defecting army units have claimed control over almost the entire eastern half of Libya's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Mediterranean coast, including several oil-producing areas.

“You men and women who love Gadhafi ... get out of your homes and fill the streets,” he said. “Leave your homes and attack them in their lairs.”

Celebratory gunfire by Gadhafi supporters rang out in the capital of Tripoli after the leader's speech, while in protest-held Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, people threw shoes at a screen showing his address, venting their contempt.

State TV showed a crowd of Gadhafi supporters in Tripoli's Green Square, raising his portrait and waving flags as they swayed to music after the address. Residents contacted by The Associated Press said no anti-government protesters ventured out of their homes after dark, and gun-toting guards manned checkpoints with occasional bursts of gunfire heard throughout the city.

International alarm rose over the crisis, which sent oil prices soaring to the highest level in more than two years



Residents stand on a tank holding a pre-Gadhafi era national flag inside a security forces compound in Benghazi, Libya on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011.

AP

on Tuesday and sparked a scramble by European and other countries to get their citizens out of the North African nation. The U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting that ended with a statement condemning the crackdown, expressing “grave concern” and calling for an “immediate end to the violence” and steps to address the legitimate demands of the Libyan people.

Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel called Gadhafi's speech “very, very appalling,” saying it “amounted to him declaring war on his own people.” Libya's own deputy ambassador at the U.N., who now calls for Gadhafi's ouster, has urged the world body to en-

force a no-fly zone over the country to protect protesters.

“This violence is completely unacceptable,” added Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Gadhafi's retaliation has already been the harshest in the Arab world to the wave of anti-government protests sweeping the Middle East. Nearly 300 people have been killed, according to a partial count by the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

In two nights of bloodshed, Tripoli residents described a rampage by pro-Gadhafi militiamen—a mix of Libyans and foreign mercenaries—who shot on sight anyone found in the

streets and opened fire from speeding vehicles at people watching from windows of their homes.

In a sign of the extent of the breakdown in Gadhafi's regime, one of his closest associates, Abdel Fattah Younis, his interior minister and commander of the powerful Thunderbolt commando brigade, announced in Benghazi that he was defecting and other armed forces should join the revolt.

“I gave up all my posts in response to the February 17 Revolution and my conviction that it has just demands,” Younis, who was among the army officers who joined Gadhafi in his 1969 coup, told Al-Jazeera, referring to the

date of the start of the protests.

The performance by Gadhafi on state TV Tuesday night went far beyond even the bizarre, volatile style he has been notorious for during nearly 42 years in power. Swathed in brown robes and a turban, wearing reflective sunglasses, he at times screamed, his voice breaking, and shook his fists—then switched to reading glasses to read from a green-covered law book, losing his train of thought before launching into a new round of shouting.

He spoke from behind a podium in the entrance of his bombed-out Tripoli residence hit by U.S. airstrikes in the 1980s and left unrepaired as a symbol of defiance.

At times the camera panned back to show the outside of the building and its towering monument of a gold-colored fist crushing an American fighter jet. But the view also gave a bizarre image of Gadhafi, waving his arms wildly alone in a broken-down lobby with no audience, surrounded by torn tiles dangling from the ceiling, shattered concrete pillars and bare plumbing pipes.

“Libya wants glory, Libya wants to be at the pinnacle, at the pinnacle of the world,” he proclaimed, pounding his fist on the podium. “I am a fighter, a revolutionary from tents. ... I will die as a martyr at the end,” he said, vowing to fight “to my last drop of blood.”

Gadhafi portrayed the protesters as misguided youths, who had been given drugs and money by a “small, sick group” to attack police and government buildings. He said the uprising was fomented by “bearded men”—a reference to Islamic fundamentalists—and Libyans living abroad.

4 American hostages killed by pirates, US says

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A pirate fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a U.S. Navy destroyer shadowing a hijacked yacht with four Americans aboard Tuesday. Then gunfire erupted, the military said. U.S. special forces rushed to the yacht only to find the four Americans fatally wounded.

The experienced yacht enthusiasts from California and Washington are the first Americans killed by Somali pirates since the start of attacks off East Africa several years ago. One of the American couples on board had been sailing around the world since 2004 handing out Bibles.

Their deaths appeared to underscore an increasingly brutal and aggressive shift by pirates in their treatment of hostages.

Killing hostages “has now become part of our rules,” said a pirate who identified himself as Muse Abdi and referred to last week's sentencing of a pirate to 33 years in prison for the 2009 attack on the U.S. cargo vessel the Maersk Alabama.

“From now on, anyone who tries to rescue the hostages in our hands will only collect dead bodies,” he said. “It will never ever happen that hostages are rescued and we are hauled to prison.”

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton strongly condemned the killings, saying in a statement that the slayings were “deplorable” and under-

scored the need for international cooperation in fighting the scourge of piracy in waters off the Horn of Africa.

Pirates had hijacked the 58-foot yacht Quest south of Oman on Friday. Since then, four U.S. warships and sky-high drones shadowed the vessel's movement as pirates tried to sail it to the Somali shore. U.S. officials negotiated with the captors via radio.

But at 8 a.m. East Africa time Tuesday, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired from the Quest at the USS Sterett, a guided-missile destroyer 600 yards (meters) away. The RPG missed and almost immediately afterward small arms fire was heard coming from the yacht, said Vice Adm. Mark Fox, commander of the U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain.

Several pirates then appeared on deck with their hands up. U.S. naval forces boarded the vessel and tried to provide lifesaving care to the Americans, but they died, Fox said. No U.S. forces were injured or killed.

Thirteen pirates were captured and detained Tuesday, and two other pirates had boarded the USS Sterett on Monday to negotiate, Fox said.

A member of a U.S. special operations force killed one of the pirates with a knife, Fox said. A second pirate was also killed, and the bodies of two other pirates were discovered on board, bringing to 19 the total number of pirates involved. The U.S. military didn't

say how those two died and it was not known if the pirates had fought among themselves.

Pirates have increased attacks off the coast of East Africa in recent years despite an international flotilla of warships dedicated to protecting vessels and stopping the pirate assaults.

But the conventional wisdom in the shipping industry had been that Somali pirates are businessmen looking for a multimillion-dollar ransom payday, not insurgents looking to terrorize people.

“We have heard threats against the lives of Americans before but it strikes me as being very, very unusual why they would kill hostages outright,” said Graeme Gibbon-Brooks, the head of Dryad Maritime Intelligence, adding that the pirates must realize that killing Americans would invite a military response.

President Barack Obama, who was notified about the deaths at 4:42 a.m. Washington time, had authorized the military on Saturday to use force in case of an imminent threat to the hostages, said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

The Quest was the home Jean and Scott Adam, of Marina del Rey, near Los Angeles. The two had been sailing around the world since December 2004. Phyllis Macay and Bob Riggle, of Seattle, Washington, had recently joined the Adams.

Bahrain king releases political prisoners

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Tens of thousands of red-and-white draped, flag-waving protesters flooded this tiny kingdom's capital Tuesday, a massive show of force against the embattled monarchy as the king made another concession to the marchers—releasing dozens of political prisoners.

Upbeat, determined demonstrators took over Manama for the day, circling the Bahrain Mall and Manama's financial district, symbols of the country's recent prosperity, in a march to the heart of the protest at Pearl Square.

“Egypt, Tunisia—are we any different?” marchers chanted, calling for the Sunni rulers they accuse of discriminating against the island's Shiite majority to fall as the presidents of two other Arab countries have in recent weeks.

Helicopters hovered overhead but security forces offered no resistance after opening fire on protesters last week, and the size of the event rivaled any of the major demonstrations so far in the eight-day uprising.

At least 50 prisoners were released included 25 Shiite activists on trial since last year for plotting against the state, according to a leading member of Bahrain's Shiite opposition, Abdul Jalil Khalil.

The release underlined how much the absolute rulers of Bahrain want to kick start reform talks with opposition leaders.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States

welcomed the king's decision to release the prisoners and “initiate a meaningful dialogue with the full spectrum of Bahraini society.”

“As we have said, these steps need to be followed by concrete actions and reform,” she said. “There is no place for violence against peaceful protesters.”

Two of those in the case are being tried in absentia, including prominent opposition leader Hassan Meshaima, who has been in self-exile in London since last year. Meshaima's return to Bahrain was imminent, his supporters said.

The activist's presence could bolster opposition forces seeking a harder line against the Bahrain dynasty, including some who have called for the complete ouster of the king and the family that has ruled for more than 200 years.

Meshaima's group, known as Haq, is considered more radical than the main Shiite political bloc that has taken a central role in the revolt and is seeking the establishment of a constitutional monarchy.

A small group of Bahraini army officers joined the ranks of protesters to demand reforms and the resignation of the current government. They condemned the soldiers who shot at protesters on Friday.

“What we did to the people was not heroic,” said Yeussif Najri, an army officer. “We ask the people to forgive us, we ask the people for forgiveness.”

Focus

Scavenging to survive in India's belt of fire

BOKAPAHARI, India (AP)—The villagers set out from this shattered hamlet long before dawn, walking without flashlights on trails they can navigate without looking.

They pass small mountains of mining slag that, in the darkness, are just blurry silhouettes. They weave barefoot through brush. When the trail reaches a dirt road, they descend into the open pit of a coal mine. Then, as the night sky starts turning to gray, they begin hacking coal from an exposed black seam.

A few hours later the scavengers return to their villages, their baskets filled with stolen coal.

They return to visions of the apocalypse.

They come back to villages where smoke pours from fissures in the earth, where flames from underground fires lick at trails, where oily fumes leave visitors gagging. In places, Bokapahari looks like nearly every other village around here—cramped stone houses plastered with mud, children playing in dirt roads, tangled electricity lines—until, off at the edge of town, the earth is buckled and warped, riven by cracks and scorched by burn marks.

Beneath the scavengers' villages are dozens of underground coal fires, one dating to 1918. Above the fires are thousands of people living at the ragged edge of existence. This is home.

"There's no beauty here," said Mahesh Prasad Verma, 40, who has spent his life on the fringes of the thriving but deeply troubled coal city of Jharia, in the remote eastern state of Jharkhand. "Everywhere there is just mines and fire, smoke and dust."

Behind that smoke, though, the dozen or so villages where fires have erupted into the open reveal a complex portrait of modern Indian life. There is economic opportunity, government incompetence and environmental afflictions. There are nearly 700 families who have reluctantly moved to an isolated resettlement project, and 54,000 more families across Jharia who officials say need to move.

There are thousands of people who desperately fear losing their grip on the bottom rungs of India's economic ladder.

"The government officials visit us and say we have to leave, because of the fire," said Verma. "But where could we go? Where would we live?"

And, most important: What would he do to survive?

"We scavenge coal and we sell it," said Verma, a seventh-grade dropout, standing amid the smoke of a half-dozen bonfires lit to reduce raw coal to sellable chunks. "That's all we do here."

India is increasingly a land of opportunity, a country of 1.2 billion where galloping economic growth created 40,000 new mil-



A young woman stumbles as she tries to carry a large basket of coal as she illegally scavenges at an open-cast mine in Bokapahari.

lionaires just in 2009. There's an exploding middle class buying up flat-screen TVs and sending their children to English-language private schools.

If much of the new money is concentrated in a handful of cities, with their clusters of software engineers and real estate developers, hints of wealth have reached deep into India, even to Jharia, a city of 500,000 in the heart of the country's coal belt.

In a country ravenous for energy, and largely dependent on coal, the city has boomed. Today, shoppers in Jharia's dusty, potholed streets can buy Whirlpool washing machines and Sony televisions. They can shop for used Hondas at the glass-fronted motorcycle dealership. It's an ugly city beset by troubles, but it still offers far more opportunities than it once did.

Bokapahari, and its grim neighboring villages, are the dark reflection of India's new world. Here the only opportunities lie in scavenged coal.

Because as one segment of Indian society has been lifted into the middle class, hundreds of millions of others have been left behind, widening an ever-expanding chasm between rich and poor.

If the Indian government hails the country as a modern economic powerhouse, many statistics tell a different story: 20 percent of all children are malnourished; rural unemployment is nearly 30 percent and more than a third of the population lives on less than \$1 per day.

In places like Bokapahari,

they say, at least they earn more than that. They are villages where misery meets opportunity, and where what looks like hell to an outsider looks like survival to the residents.

Not that anyone gets misty-eyed about it.

The villages are a mixture of the everyday and the surreal, where old men can gossip on a front step while, barely 30 feet away, smoke spews from dozens of crevices, some large enough to swallow a child. When the light is right, foot-high blue flames can be seen spurting from many cracks.

Everyone tells stories about collapsing houses, about the sleeping man who disappeared when a sinkhole opened beneath his bed.

"Slowly and slowly the fire is crawling under them," T.N. Singh, a retired scientist with the Central Mining Research Institute, said of the villagers. "And one day, the fire will consume them."

Already, life is ferociously difficult. Alcoholism is rampant and up to 40 percent of some villages have asthma. One local doctor has seen six tuberculosis deaths in just the past six months.

"I know this is a terrible place," said M.G. Martin, 26, a thick tarry smell hanging in the air around him. A crack splits one wall of his shack, accidentally caused by laborers when they destroyed his neighbor's home when that family agreed to be resettled. Once anyone leaves, officials want no one moving back.

"This is where we earn our living, and I can't just leave," he said.

Earning that living is dangerous, filthy and illegal. Scavengers are buried in landslides, fall from cliffs and endure beatings by miners. They inhale endless coal dust. They age with frightening speed.

But it also brings them \$2-\$4 for a few hours of work, more than the \$1 or so they would earn as day laborers. The work has sustained generations of families, and induced migrants from poorer parts of the country to move here. The money is enough, villagers say, to pay off powerful people who make sure the mines' guards don't interfere.

So there are scavengers putting their children through school, buying televisions and saving up for motorcycles. One young woman says she's scavenging to pay for college.

It's a world that no one leaves easily. Offers of free government apartments seldom lure villagers away until the fires press right against their homes, and an official is waiting with a moving truck and an envelope holding a 10,000-rupee (\$215) resettlement bonus.

The head of the Jharia Rehabilitation Development Authority, the government body trying to shift thousands of families from the nearly 600 locations in and around Jharia left unsafe by underground fires and illegal mining, said more people are actually moving into the danger zone. They come "for earning

their livelihood, and nothing else," said Gopalji, who uses only one name.

In many of those 600 sites, it's difficult to see the danger. The trouble is subterranean, with fires and unstable subsoil hidden deep underground, scattered across Jharia and the surrounding area. But every few years the ground cracks open and fears spread again. One 1996 sinkhole damaged 150 houses in the city, others swallowed entire houses.

In Bokapahari, though, the trouble is obvious. There are not many villages like it, perhaps a dozen, but they are home to thousands of people, nearly all of whom survive by scavenging. All are situated along the area's many open pit mines.

Singh estimates there are at least 70 fires around Jharia. Some began with "contact fires," such as when burning garbage ignites an exposed coal seam, and some from cooking fires lit inside the mines.

Unlike the most famous underground coal fire in the United States—in Centralia, Pennsylvania, where a blaze has burned since 1962, forcing the government to resettle nearly the entire town—Singh said many of Jharia's fires are nurtured by continued mining, which opens up cracks that feed oxygen to the flames.

At least some fires, he said, could be extinguished by simply excavating on both sides of the burn.

That, however, would take

cooperation between Indian authorities and the state-owned company that owns the mines. When they have worked together, as they briefly did in the 1970s, they managed to extinguish five of the 21 fires then burning, he said. Since then, many more have erupted.

Eventually, though, the government decided it had to take dramatic action, and in 1990 officials began making plans. The current one calls for moving about 350,000 people.

It took officials years to find a building site—11 kilometers (7 miles) from town, far from public transportation—and years more to complete the first phase of construction. After \$24 million in spending, 662 families have moved into Belgarhia, a complex of drab 4-story buildings set amid empty fields.

But the other reality: More than 1,600 apartments there are empty. Even the poorest residents do not move easily.

Gopalji, the resettlement bureaucrat, is still shocked by that.

"We've given them each and every amenity, minus a job," he said.

But a job is what it's all about.

At first, many new residents are ecstatic. While the apartments are minuscule and some are already crumbling from shoddy construction, they have running water, concrete floors and indoor toilets—unknown luxuries in the villages.

"I lived in a mud house, a hut, and when I saw this I was thrilled," said Tara Devi, a 32-year-old who looks at least a decade older, gesturing around her 27-square-meter (290-square-foot) apartment.

Until moving to Belgarhia in December, she and her husband had lived in Ghanuawadih, another village where underground fires have burst through the ground. They earned about \$4 a day there scavenging coal. It wasn't a good life, but it was enough to send their two children to school, to buy a TV.

Now, she says she never should have left.

There's no work, she says, a refrain heard across Belgarhia. Their savings are running out. A couple of times a week, her husband makes the journey back to the coal mines, two hours each way.

She would move back if she could. But as the family left, laborers with hammers and iron bars were waiting to smash it down.

Today, nothing of it remains but a few bricks, scattered in a village that stinks of burning coal.

Environment

\$749M up for grabs for fish and wildlife projects

WASHINGTON—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar recently announced the distribution of more than \$749 million in excise tax revenues generated by sportsmen and women to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Programs.

Program funding is available to all 50 states, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Hunters and anglers have provided the foundation for wildlife conservation in America for more than 75 years. They continue to provide dedicated,

critical funding for fish and wildlife agencies across the nation, especially at a time when many state budgets are under pressure," said Salazar. "These funds will support important fish and wildlife management and conservation, recreational boating access, and hunter and aquatic education programs."

Program funds come from excise taxes paid by manufacturers, producers, and importers on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment and tackle, and electric outboard motors. Recreational boaters also contribute to the program through fuel taxes on motorboats and small engines.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program

apportionment for 2011 totals more than \$384 million, of which more than \$79 million is for hunter education and safety programs. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Program apportionment for 2011 totals nearly \$365 million, of which nearly \$55 million is for recreational boating access facilities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program reimburses up to 75 percent of the cost of each eligible project while State fish and wildlife agencies contribute a minimum of 25 percent, generally using hunting and fishing license revenues as the required non-Federal match.

Fish and Wildlife agencies

use the funds to pay for stocking sport fish; acquiring and improving sport fish habitat; providing aquatic resource education opportunities; conducting fisheries research; maintaining public fishing access, administering the aquatic resource education program, and constructing boat ramps, fishing piers, and other facilities for recreational boating access.

Visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Web site at <http://wsfr-programs.fws.gov/> for more information on the goals and accomplishments of these programs and for individual State, Commonwealth, and territorial funding allocations.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish

Restoration Programs have generated a total of more than \$13.7 billion since their inception—in 1937 in the case of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program, and 1950

for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Program. The recipient fish and wildlife agencies have matched these program funds with more than \$3.4 billion. (PR)

68 grants awarded to study renewable energy feasibility in rural communities

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development recently selected for funding 68 study grants nationwide to determine the feasibility of renewable energy projects, including one that will study the feasibility of setting up an anaerobic digester that will produce green energy on Rota.

The grants cover all five regions identified by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in his October speech to the National Press Club. The regions include the Northeast, Central/East, Southeast (including Hawaii), West and Pacific Northwest (including Alaska).

In all, studies will be funded in 27 states and the Western Pacific. Funding is made available through the Rural Energy for America Program under the 2008 Farm Bill.

"The Obama Administration is committed to helping our nation become more energy independent by helping rural businesses build renewable energy systems," said Vilsack. "The projects will provide rural small businesses and agricultural pro-

ducers the opportunity to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy system installations. These investments will not only help our farmers and small businesses reduce energy costs, but also help find renewable alternatives to generate energy."

For example, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Oceana Consultancy, LLC has been selected to receive a \$21,931 feasibility study grant to analyze a proposed anaerobic digester project to produce renewable energy and manage organic waste on the island of Saipan.

REAP loan guarantees and grants can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits. More information on the REAP program, which was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, is at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_ReapGrants.html.

Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions for the grant. (USDA)

Two beach cleanups net 31 bags of trash

A weekend of beach cleanups was what Saipan ordered, as an alliance of community efforts from volunteers at the Coastal Resources Management Office, Northern Marianas College Service Learning Program, the Department of Public Health, and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance got rid of trash on two of Saipan's beautiful beaches.

On Friday, the beaches behind Lali 4 got a thorough cleanup as students from NMC's Service Learning Program part-

nered with CRM employees to clean up their Adopt-A-Bin site. It seems the cleanup efforts have had a positive effect in recent months.

"Maybe because it was before a weekend, but the beach seemed cleaner than the other times I've been here," said Jon Igitol, outreach coordinator of Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

On a separate event held Saturday morning, the Department of Public Health and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance orga-

nized a beach cleanup at the Civic Center beach areas. Over 20 volunteers from DPH and MINA were present.

The effort was successful for both cleanups, with a total of about 31 bags of trash and wood debris collected, 2 percent of which were recyclable items.

For those who would like to volunteer and join the alliance against marine debris, call the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance at 233-REEF, or visit www.mina-pacific.org. (PR)

Give your bathroom a green mini-makeover

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Giving your bathroom a green mini-makeover can help reduce your monthly utility bills and you'll also be saving a whole lot of water, one of our most precious natural resources. Some upgrades won't cost you a penny, others will cost a few bucks, and a few bigger investments will bring a bigger payoff down the road. Do Your Part and make a few upgrades to your inefficient bathroom because it's the one room where we waste the most at home.

Let's start with the free stuff. Turning off the water when you brush your teeth is an easy way to save 2,000 gallons of water per person, per year. You can also save thousands of gallons of hot water in the shower when you turn off the water while you shampoo, shave, or lather up. Take it one step further and replace an older showerhead with a relatively inexpensive low flow model and save more than three gallons of water every minute someone is in the shower. And it's not just water you'll be saving. You are likely using heated water in that shower so you'll also be saving energy and money because you'll be heating less water.

The biggest water hog in your



MCT

A new shower faucet can help give your bathroom a green makeover.

bathroom is likely the toilet, especially if it was installed prior to 1994. Older model toilets need as much as seven gallons of water per flush compared to models built after 1994 that are required to use less than two gallons per flush. Replacing an older toilet with a water-conserving model is one upgrade with an immediate water conserving impact.

If it's not in the budget, there is a no-cost or low cost solution to reducing the amount of water used with each flush. It's called a water displacement device and you can make one for free with a plastic jug, some gravel, and a couple minutes. Or you can spend less than \$25 and buy

a device that drops into the back of your toilet tank. By reducing the amount of water the toilet wastes, the average household can save about 17,000 gallons a year. Go to DoYourPart.com/columns to watch my video for step-by-step instructions on making a water displacement device. You can also learn a simple test to find out if your toilet has a silent leak that is wasting up to 200 gallons a day.

Of course, there are other things besides water that go to waste in the bathroom. Many times, we don't recycle all we can such as shampoo bottles, soap packaging, and even those cardboard toilet paper rolls.

Having a small recycling container in the bathroom will help you and your family to recycle those valuable items instead of letting them waste in a landfill.

The bathroom is one room where we can really make a difference to waste less. Do Your Part and make a few upgrades that will have you on your way to wasting less, immediately.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Experts review management of A. Samoa pelagic fisheries

HONOLULU—Scientists are meeting this week in Honolulu to make recommendations on the management of American Samoa's pelagic fisheries and other federally managed fisheries in the US Pacific Islands.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has been meeting since Tuesday, Feb. 22, and will have its last meeting today, Feb. 24, at the Council office in Honolulu.

The Council will consider the SSC recommendations and those of its other advisory bodies and the public on March 8 to 10, from 8:30am to 5pm, at the Governor Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei), Pago Pago, American Samoa. Council recommendations are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

Major agenda items to be considered by the SSC include potential modifications to the American Samoa pelagic longline limited entry permit program.

The fishery has undergone substantial shift in participa-

tion in terms of vessel sizes, from a fishery once dominated by small vessels (37 active in 2002) generally less than 40 feet in length, to a large vessel fishery with all but one vessel over 50 feet (25 active in 2009). The lack of participation in the small vessel fleet is a concern, as this fleet when active is believed to provide important socio-cultural and economic benefits to the American Samoa fishing community. A regulatory amendment to the Pelagic FEP considers potential modifications to the limited entry program to reduce programmatic barriers that may be limiting small vessel participation, which in turn, may be affecting sustained community and indigenous American Samoan participation in the longline fishery.

A draft regulatory amendment to the Pelagic FEP proposes to modify the large vessel prohibited area around American Samoa, which is generally a 0-50 nm rectangle around Tutuila, Manua Islands and Rose Atoll in the south and another 0-50 nm rectangle around Swains Island in the north. (WESPAC)

Life & Style

September release set for McGinniss book on Palin

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—A best-selling author accused of helping leak an unpublished tell-all on Sarah Palin is releasing his own book on the former Alaska governor this summer.

Amazon.com lists a Sept. 20 release date for author Joe McGinniss' "The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin."

McGinniss, who wrote a

magazine expose on Palin and her natural gas pipeline plans, made headlines last year when he moved next door to the Palins in Wasilla for about three months while researching the book. The move prompted complaints by Palin, who had the fence between their properties extended.

More recently, McGinniss

has been accused of helping leak a draft of an unpublished tell-all by former Palin aide Frank Bailey. Details from the manuscript got national attention after the leak to news outlets and Alaska political circles late last week.

In a letter to McGinniss, an attorney for Bailey and writers Ken Morris and Jeanne Devon

alleges McGinniss received a copy of the manuscript between Feb. 16 and 18 and says the matter "appears to be no more than that of a jealous author sabotaging a competitor via unlawful and unscrupulous means."

A copy of the letter was posted on Devon's blog. The Anchorage Daily News has reported that it received cop-

ies of the manuscript from multiple sources, including McGinniss.

Neither McGinniss nor a spokeswoman for Crown Publishing Group, which is publishing McGinniss' book under its Broadway imprint, immediately returned messages Tuesday.

McGinniss' book agent,

Dave Larabell, told The Associated Press that McGinniss wasn't the only person in the publishing world to see the manuscript. He declined further comment.

McGinniss is a best-selling author whose previous works include "The Selling of the President," about the marketing of Richard Nixon.

Dealing with the Oscar nominees for best actress

By **RAFER GUZMAN**
NEWSDAY

Who says the Oscars are too mainstream?

This year's best actress category features performances in films that range from slightly off-center to totally off the map. The list's biggest star, Nicole Kidman, is nominated for "Rabbit Hole," a movie that almost nobody has seen. Even the most popular film on the list, the surreal horror-thriller "Black Swan," began

as a specialty release; its \$100 million take at the box office has been one of this winter's biggest and most inexplicable surprises.

What's more, that movie's star seems the most likely to take the award. This is one category, at least, where the weirdest film may win.

■ THE ACTRESS: Nicole Kidman, "Rabbit Hole"

THE DEAL: Her A-list status hasn't helped her movie earn even \$2 million at the box-office.



Kidman

That's probably because of the dark subject matter: It's about a couple grieving for a dead

child. The lack of buzz canceled out the good reviews, which makes Kidman a long shot.

■ THE ACTRESS: Jennifer Lawrence, "Winter's Bone"

"Winter's Bone"

THE DEAL: The 20-year-old actress looked for all the world like



Lawrence

the backwoods meth-cooker's daughter she played in this indie movie. Surprise! She's actually a potential It Girl, with upcoming roles in "X-Men: First Class" and the Mel Gibson comeback "The Beaver." This may not be her year, but she's got time.

■ THE ACTRESS: Michelle Williams, "Blue Valentine"

THE DEAL: In this ultra-intense

indie drama, Williams and Ryan Gosling played a married couple slowly splitting apart. And while few have quibbled with her performance, the most notable thing about her nomination is that her co-star didn't get one.



Williams

■ THE ACTRESS: Annette Bening, "The Kids Are All Right"

THE DEAL: Critics raved about her portrayal of a



Bening

fiercely protective mother—and lesbian. She's been hard on the Oscar campaign trail in recent days, leading some observers to wonder whether she may yet come out on top.

■ THE ACTRESS: Natalie Portman, "Black Swan"

THE DEAL: The role of a

mentally unstable woman who may or may not have an enormous swan living in her torso

wouldn't seem to be Oscar material. But with her star rising and a slew of movies coming out this year, Portman is the one to put your money on.



Portman

Oscar could be coronation for composer Desplat

NEW YORK (AP)—In a film where sound is central, Alexandre Desplat's score to "The King's Speech" enters subtly.

A simple melody slinks in, a soft, demure line of hopeful piano notes, fittingly repetitive, like the stuttering speech of the film's main character, George VI (Colin Firth).

"You have to respect the silence," says Desplat, speaking from London where he's working on the score to "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2." "It's quite a challenge to be able to come in in such a delicate way that you're not noticed. I think great scores have to be noticed, but they're wrong when you hear the music come in."

The score, partly recorded with a vintage microphone of George VI's, has earned Desplat his fourth Academy Award nomination. He's regarded as the front-runner in the category ahead of the Feb. 27 Oscars.

A win would be something of a belated coronation for Desplat. Though it wasn't until 2003 that he broke through to Hollywood, the 49-year-old Frenchman has already established himself as one of the most sought after composers in movies.

His scores are remarkably varied, veering from grandly epic to minimalist and intimate, from 80-piece orchestras to lone whistling. He's worked with Stephen Frears, Roman Polanski, David Fincher, Wes Anderson and Jacques Audiard.

"The sound of the music and the images, to me, is something intangible and magical," says Desplat. "I try to sneak into the film with the music, so that it



In this undated publicity image released by The Weinstein Co., composer Alexandre Desplat, nominated for an Oscar for best original score for "The King's Speech," is shown.

belongs to the film totally."

The son of a French father and Greek mother who met in the U.S. but raised him in France, Desplat was classically trained on piano from age 5. He also became proficient on the flute and trumpet.

He was a young cinephile. At age 6, he recalls being struck by Alex North's score to "Spartacus."

"I never dreamed of writing for concert or opera," says Desplat. "I always dreamed, if I was a composer, to write music for films."

He was particularly moved by scores by Nino Rota, Bernard Hermann, fellow Frenchman Maurice Jarre ("Lawrence of Arabia") and John Williams, whose "Star Wars" score—its double album poured over—prompted a resolution in Desplat.

"I remember saying to my friends: 'That's what I want to do,'" says Desplat.

He began scoring film and television around 1990, working mainly in France. Dialogue-heavy French films, Desplat

says, didn't give him the room he craved. 2003's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" introduced him to Hollywood.

Jonathan Glazer's "Birth" (2004) bent yet more ears to Desplat, particularly its magnificent opening scene: An overhead shot of a jogger running through a snowy Central Park, who eventually collapses and dies. Paced by flute, Desplat's score is lush and stirring—somewhat like minimalist John Adams, a distinct influence on Desplat.

Anderson was blown away by the "Birth" score and sought out Desplat for his stop-motion animated "Fantastic Mr. Fox." Desplat's whimsical score has bluegrass influences and pieces like "Whack-Bat Majorette."

"Alexandre is a French movie star who happens to be one of the world's pre-eminent composers," Anderson said by e-mail. "I do not know if he can act. Also, I feel he may be the flute-playing equivalent of Jimi Hendrix, and he is a great whistler."

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Gregorio Blas Magofña

Lovingly known as "Tun Goru"

Born on November 27, 1935 and was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Father: †Vicente F. Megofña
Mother: †Vicenta B. Megofña
Brothers & Sisters: †Clara M. Sablan, †Emerinciana M. Taitano, †Caridad M. Falig, †Jose B. Magofña, †Jesus B. Magofña, †Miguel B. Magofña, †Pedro B. Magofña, †Santiago B. Magofña, †Cecilia B. Magofña, †Estella M. Pangelinan
Daughter: †Clarissa N. Magofña
Greatgrand Son: †Perry Lawrence M. Iguel II

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:

Wife: Natalia M. Magofña
Children: **Fernando N. Magofña (Terry), Veronica N. Magofña, Ismael N. Magofña (Mona), Remedio M. Pangelinan (Vaughn), Robert N. Magofña (Marcia), Roque N. Magofña (Melonie), Melissa Magofña-Camacho (Doru), Shirley Magofña-Rodriguez (Joe), Joseph M. Magofña (Kayla), Eric M. Magofña (Amy Lynn), Gregorio Magofña, Jr.**
Reared Son: Benigno M. Sablan

He will also be missed by numerous nieces and nephews.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30PM at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On Friday, February 25, 2011 at 7:00AM, his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to Santa Remedios Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Family

Judge in LA eases Chris Brown restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown doesn't have to stay away from Rihanna anymore after a judge on Tuesday downgraded a restraining order in the singer's felony assault case.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg's ruling came after an attorney for Rihanna said she didn't object to removing the stay-away provisions of an order issued after Brown pleaded guilty to beating her in February 2009. The old order required Brown to stay 50 yards away from Rihanna, but the restriction was reduced to 10 yards if they were at a music-industry event.

The judge said she never would have considered relaxing the order without Rihanna's consent and until Brown completed domestic violence counseling. Prosecutors did

not object to the change.

Schnegg praised Brown, who was in the court Tuesday and left holding a one-page copy of the new order. She noted he continues to make progress on completing the physical labor requirements of his probation and said the R&B singer does not have to attend a June 22 progress report hearing.

The new order remains in effect until August 2014 when Brown's probation is scheduled to end.

He and Rihanna, 23, can now see and speak to each other. But if Brown harasses, threatens, assaults, or tracks his ex-girlfriend's movements, he could be found to be in violation of his probation.

Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Fenty, can record any

threatening conversations with Brown and present them as evidence to authorities.

Her attorney, Donald Etra, said he thought the new order was adequate protection.

Brown, 21, was charged with felony assault for the February 2009 fight in which he repeatedly struck Rihanna in a rented car after they left a pre-Grammy Awards party. Both entertainers missed that year's awards show, although both have had renewed success in their careers since the incident.

Both Brown and Rihanna were nominated for Grammys this year, and she performed during the glitzy awards ceremony. Brown did not attend the show, but performed on Saturday Night Live a day earlier.



In this Feb. 8, 2011 file photo, singer Chris Brown arrives at the premiere of the documentary film, "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," in Los Angeles.

Amazon offers free online movies to Prime members

NEW YORK (AP)—Online shoppers subscribing to Amazon.com's premium membership are getting a new entertainment feature that will allow them to watch movies over the Internet, just as they can through Netflix's rapidly growing video subscription service.

Amazon.com Inc.'s Prime membership charges \$79 annually for free two-day shipping and low-cost next-day shipping. Beginning Tuesday, the millions of people subscribing to the Prime service can also watch roughly 5,700 movies and television shows through Amazon's on-demand video service at no additional charge.

The selection will include a mix of movies and TV shows, such as "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" trilogy, the documentary "March of the Penguins" and the 1970s British comedy series "Fawlty Towers." All of those titles are also available through Netflix Inc.'s much larger online video library, which offers more than 20,000 movies and TV shows.

Amazon's expansion into video streaming still poses a threat to Netflix, which now has 20 million subscribers.

The competition from a deep-pocketed rival such as Amazon could make it more difficult for Netflix to attract and retain subscribers looking to save money. Netflix offers a streaming-only service that costs \$8 per month, or \$96 annually, but most of its subscribers pay more so they can also receive some DVD-by-mail rentals. Netflix's most popular combination plans cost \$10 to \$20 per month.

With another bidder in the video-streaming market, movie studios may be able to demand more money for the licensing rights. That could raise Netflix's expenses and lower its profit margins.

"When you have a big and growing market, there will be competition," said Netflix spokesman Steve Swasey.

The specter cast by Amazon rattled investors as Netflix shares dropped \$13.83, or 5.9 percent, to \$221.69 in afternoon trading Tuesday. Amazon shares shed \$5.57, or 2.9 percent to \$180.93.

Amazon's streaming feature also could hurt cable and satellite TV providers by creating a cheaper entertainment channel. All but about 1,700 of the titles in Amazon's streaming library are TV shows, Cameron Janes, director of Amazon Instant Video, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

People can stream these movies and shows on PCs and Macs, or through about 200 different Internet-connected TVs, set-top boxes and Blu-ray players.

Netflix's service also can be streaming through many of the same devices as well as the top-selling video game consoles, mobile phones and Apple Inc.'s popular iPad tablet computer.

Home movie of President Kennedy given to museum

DALLAS (AP)—Roy R. Botello will never forget the crowd's enthusiasm as he recorded a home movie of John F. Kennedy at a Houston hotel on the eve of the president's assassination in Dallas.

The footage of a Nov. 21, 1963, gathering of the League of United Latin American Citizens shows Kennedy and his wife smiling as people jostle through the crowd to shake their hands or snap photos. A mariachi band can be seen behind the president and first lady.

After keeping the silent, color images stored away in a living room drawer in his San Antonio home for decades, Botello decided to donate his film to the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, which is dedicated to Kennedy's assassination.

The home movie includes images of Jacqueline Kennedy addressing the gathering of several hundred people at Houston's Rice Hotel in Spanish. Botello said the crowd's appreciation of the first lady knowing the language is one of the memories from that night that still stand out.

"She knew what the mariachis were saying but (President Kennedy) didn't know anything about that. He just looked up and smiled," said Botello, 89, who speaks English and Spanish and was on a LULAC scholarship committee back then.

"She was enjoying the mariachis behind her. It was rewarding for us that she understood," he said.

Gary Mack, curator of the

Sixth Floor Museum, said local media outlets also recorded the event, but that Botello's is the first home movie he's seen. Mack notes that the footage is all the more special because it was shot by an amateur whose perspective makes viewers feel like they're part of the crowd.

At one point, the scene becomes so hectic that Botello is knocked down.

"He didn't have the focus correct all the time, but that doesn't matter," Mack said. "You really feel like you are right there in the moment so to speak."

He said Botello's footage is also notable for the images of Mrs. Kennedy, who had made few appearances since the death of the couple's infant son, Patrick, in August 1963.

"Jackie had this marvelous smile and you can see that every clearly," Mack said.

The Kennedys were in Texas as part of a five-city tour. They had already been to San Antonio. From Houston, they flew to Fort Worth on the night of Nov. 21 before leaving for Dallas the next day. Austin was to have been their last stop before going back to Washington.

But as the Kennedys' motorcade passed the Texas School Book Depository in downtown Dallas on a parade route on Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy was assassinated. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested that day and then killed two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

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Big Momma's Like Father Like Son

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Tues thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Martin Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcolm Turner in this third outing in the Big Momma's House series. This entry sees Lawrence's cross-dressing alter-ego, Big Momma, heading to an all-girls school with his nephew, Trent (Brandon T. Jackson), in order to hunt down a murderer. John Whitesell directs off a script by Matthew Fogel.

I Am Number Four

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Tues thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A teenage fugitive with an incredible secret races to stay one step ahead of the mysterious forces seeking to track and destroy him in this sci-fi action thriller from director D.J. Caruso (Disturbia, Eagle Eye). With three dead and one on the run, the race to find the elusive Number Four begins. Outwardly normal teen John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) never gets too comfortable in the same identity, and along with his guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he is constantly moving from town to town — the perpetual new kid in a series of strangely familiar schools.

Unknown

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Tues thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A man (Liam Neeson) wakes up from a coma while on a business trip to Europe only to find that some other man has taken his identity and stepped into his life. Diane Kruger and January Jones co-star.

Just Go With It

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Tues thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Jennifer Aniston, Adam Sandler
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gnomeo and Juliet

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Tues thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

James McAvoy, Emily Blunt
Musical, Children's/family • Rated G

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Tues thru Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Justin Bieber
Musical • Rated G

Sanctum

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Tues thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Richard Roxburgh, Rhys Wakefield
Drama • Rated R

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'Fan cut' of Bieber documentary to be released

NEW YORK (AP)—A “fan cut” of the documentary “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never” will be released Friday.

Paramount announced Monday that director Jon M. Chu has re-edited the Bieber concert film based on fan suggestions. The studio says the new 115-minute cut includes 40 minutes of new footage.

Chu followed Bieber for 10 days on a recent concert tour. He said he had an “embarrass-

ment of riches” in leftover footage and sought out suggestions from Bieber fans on Twitter and Facebook.

“Never Say Never” has earned \$51.4 million at the domestic box office since being release Feb. 11. The new edit allows Paramount to further capitalize on the fanatical fan base of the 16-year-old pop star.

The revamped film will play in 3-D theaters for one week.

Singer Buju Banton found guilty in cocaine conspiracy

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Grammy-winning reggae singer Buju Banton was convicted Tuesday of conspiring to set up a cocaine deal in 2009, a verdict that elicited anguish and disbelief among supporters in a crowded courtroom and from other artists in his native Jamaica. A federal jury deliberated for 11 hours over two days on the fate of Banton, who won a Grammy last week for best reggae album for his work entitled “Before the Dawn.” He was found guilty of three of four charges, and his attorney said he’s facing at least 15 years in prison.

The 37-year-old Banton,

whose given name is Mark Myrie, remains wildly popular in Jamaica, and the trial—his second over the drug accusations—was packed with supporters that included other well-known reggae artists. The first trial ended in a mistrial last year after the jury deadlocked.

The tall, dreadlocked singer didn’t react when a clerk read the verdict on Tuesday. He stood, hugged his attorneys, then turned around and blew kisses to his supporters in the courtroom and told them: “Thank you.” A woman yelled out “We love you, Buju!” as U.S. marshals led him away.

Alyssa Milano expecting her first child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alyssa Milano is becoming a mom.

A spokeswoman for Milano says the 38-year-old actress is expecting her first child with husband David Bugliari.

Milano confirmed the news on Twitter Tuesday, writing that she “couldn’t be happier.”

She and Bugliari, who is an agent with Creative Artists Agency, were married in August 2009.

Milano starred in TV’s “Who’s the Boss?” and “Charmed.” She can next be seen in the movie “Hall Pass,” in theaters Friday.



Justin Bieber talks to Rihanna during the second half of the NBA basketball All-Star Game on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Berlusconi scandal teen to attend Opera Ball

VIENNA (AP)—A camera-happy Austrian says he’s booked a young woman linked to the sex scandal engulfing Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi as his companion for the Vienna Opera Ball next week.

Richard Lugner is a 78-year-old construction mogul who is a regular on reality TV and known for his young girlfriends and quirky ways. Every year, he takes a different celebrity to the flashy bash

amid much media attention.

Lugner said Tuesday he’s received a completed contract from Karima el-Mahroug, an 18-year-old nicknamed Ruby, who is at the heart of the scandal.

She replaces actress Bo Derek and two other unnamed celebrities who fell through in recent weeks. Lugner’s past dates include Paris Hilton and Nicole Sheridan.

This year’s Opera Ball is on March 3.

Tale of generosity inspires others to help kids in need

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for printing the letter from the woman who paid for her neighbor’s children’s school lunch bill. “Lending a Hand in the Midwest” (Jan. 10) was angry to discover they didn’t qualify for free lunches because “their parents were just a couple of dollars over the limit.” To top it off, the children’s father is doing his second tour in Afghanistan.

Because you encouraged your readers to contact local schools to give a few dollars to a child in need of a meal, it inspired me to speak to the principal in our district. Not only did the principal like my fundraising idea, he has allowed me time on campus to promote the fundraiser.

Twenty-seven students will be joining me after school in making lollipops to sell at an upcoming event. Local businesses and individuals have donated most of the supplies necessary to make this a successful drive to help the children in need. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for this cause.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to “Lending” for sharing a great idea.

HAPPILY PAYING IT FORWARD IN HAWAII

DEAR HAPPILY: Thank you for spreading the message. “Lending’s” generous act of kindness elicited many interesting and thought-provoking responses. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion and the American Legion Riders Association. One of the main functions of our organizations is to help our veterans and their families in any way we can. You would be amazed at the monies and help expended to our veterans, soldiers and their families that doesn’t make the news because being “needy” is perceived as some kind of fault.

To respond to a need, we must KNOW about it. Abby, please tell your readers if there is a problem, contact your local VFW, American Legion, AmVets, etc. and we will respond.

FRANK IN BURLINGTON, WIS.

DEAR ABBY: I am currently serving in the military and have never thought to donate to school lunches. I’m happy knowing people are watching out for the troops’ kids. As soon as I return home from Iraq, I will make the call to see where I can help.

AIRMAN WHO HAS BEEN THERE

DEAR ABBY: A lot of families are in the same situation. We have three kids and are \$8 over the “allowed financial amount.” What’s not taken into consideration is the \$100 my husband pays for Internet each month he’s serving in Afghanistan so our 8-year-old son with Asperger’s can “see” his daddy. This lessens the anxiety, compounded by his dad’s deployment, that is associated with his autism. God bless “Lending a Hand” for her gift to that family.

ABBIE IN RINEYVILLE, KY.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a public school. The administrators and the school nurse have daily contact with “kids in need” who could benefit enormously from small donations. I encourage people to contact their local schools and inquire about donating new clothes and/or toiletries to a child in need. The child’s identity will not be revealed, but sizes and current clothing trends can be provided, and the donor will have the satisfaction of knowing the donation is helping a child “fit in” and will make a huge difference in that child’s self-esteem.

MARCIA IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: My son’s homework was to find three living heroes in today’s world. I showed him the letter from “Lending a Hand” and told him the writer is a perfect example of a hero. Giving of oneself is a lesson I’m trying to teach my son so lending a helping hand will be second nature to him.

MELISSA IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Garth Brooks, Leon Russell among inductees to hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Garth Brooks is being immortalized for his songwriting skills. The country superstar is one of five acts to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame on June 16. The announcement was made Tuesday by the group’s chairman, Jimmy Webb. He says the songwriters have “forever enriched our world’s music.” Leon Russell is also part of the inductee class, making it the second hall of fame honor for him this year; next month, he’ll be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Fellow piano man Allen Toussaint (TOO’-sint) will be inducted as well, along with John Bettis, who wrote “Human Nature” and “Crazy for You,” and the team of Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly, who wrote songs including “Like a Virgin” and “True Colors.”

Larry King to tour with a one-man show

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King is not done talking. The

former talk-show host, who retired last year after 25 years at CNN, will be taking the stage in seven communities to dish about his storied career in a one-man show. The 77-year-old will offer theatergoers an inside look at his life and the ability to ask questions of the Emmy Award winner when “Larry King: Stand Up” kicks off April 14 in Torrington, Conn. The show will then make stops in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey and Nevada, ending June 11 at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. King was a week-night fixture with his signature suspenders on CNN since 1985.

Man jumps barricade at NBC’s ‘Today’ show

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who briefly interrupted “Today” show personalities at the NBC show’s outdoor studio is being evaluated for emotional problems. New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said Tuesday that it’s not clear whether the man, who was not identified, will face charges. He jumped a barricade that kept people away from Meredith

Vieira, Al Roker and guest host Willie Geist as they stood outside and talked on the air. Roker said the man said something to the effect of being God’s gift to music. “Today” security and New York City police officers quickly subdued him. News anchor Ann Curry, who was inside at the time, wrote on Twitter that everyone at the show was OK. “Weirded out,” she wrote, “but OK.”

Sting troubled by violence, repression in Libya

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Sting says he is concerned by violence and repression in Libya and hopes peace will return to the troubled country. The British singer calls Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi a man trying to hold on to power unjustly amid protests and a crackdown by security forces. In the entertainer’s words, “Things like this should be handled just like in Egypt and Tunisia.” Similar protests in those two northern African nations recently forced out strongman rulers. Sting also says the West “should start treating the

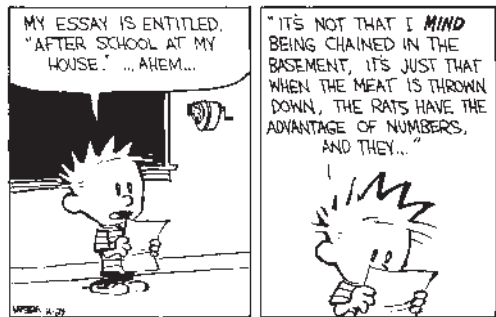
Arab culture (in) a better way.” He spoke Tuesday in Peru’s capital, where he has a concert scheduled Wednesday.

O’Donnell mulls ‘Dancing With the Stars’ invite

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AP)—Tea Party favorite Christine O’Donnell says she’s been invited to be a contestant on TV’s “Dancing with the Stars.” But the losing Senate candidate from Delaware isn’t sure she should accept, saying she has two left feet and a book about politics to complete. The conservative Republican, who lost to a Democrat amid controversy over past statements about youthful dabbling in witchcraft, is soliciting opinions on her Facebook page. O’Donnell says her initial reaction was to say “no” to the show, but others are encouraging her to accept. O’Donnell writes she’s flattered, but a 2-year-old nephew has more rhythm than she does. A program representative said Tuesday it has no comment on casting speculation, adding a new cast will be announced next week.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

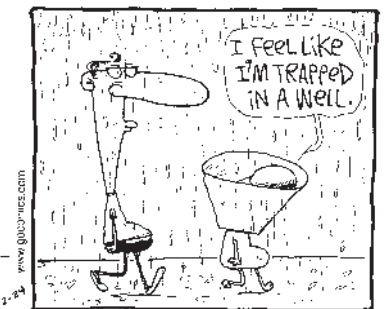
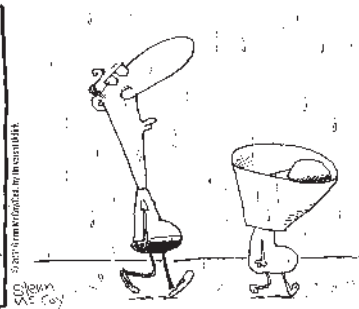
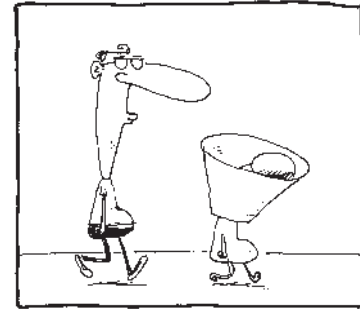
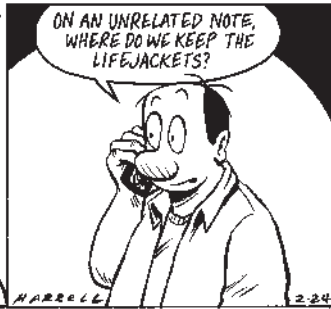


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

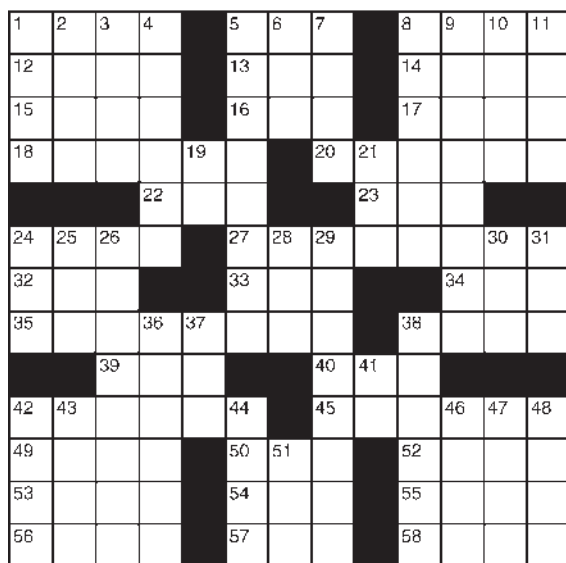
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Frisbee, e.g.
5 Dance syllable
8 Somewhere out there
12 Busy with
13 "— Town"
14 Acrimony
15 Cicatrix
16 Ran into
17 "Yeah, right!"
18 Victorian vehicle
20 America's Cup entries
22 — out a living
23 18-Across, e.g.
24 Card-holder's woe
27 Drought-stricken region
32 In olden times
33 Category
34 Court
- DOWN**
- 35 Gridiron event
38 Bend
39 Actor Chaney
40 Writer Buscaglia
42 Confine
45 Sign up
49 Invitation abbr.
50 Sternward
52 Lavish affection (on)
53 Sheltered
54 Bill and —
55 Rams' mates
56 Information situation
57 Barbie's companion
58 En-grossed
59 Peruvian strain?
60 Impression
61 Einstein's birthplace
62 Frame-work
63 Travail
64 Bagel topper
65 Cut off
66 Wilde-beast
67 Dossier
68 Type measure
69 Animal stomach
70 Scandavian city
71 Prepare to travel
72 "The Music Man" locale
73 Dance lesson
74 Criterion
75 Adversary

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Zane, 45; Debra Jo Rupp, 60; Helen Shaver, 60; Edward James Olmos, 64

Happy Birthday: You'll tend to overreact and take on insurmountable projects and responsibilities this year. Doors will open to learn new skills and to meet new people, but you can only take advantage of such opportunities if you haven't burdened yourself with impossible tasks. Don't do anything you don't have the time or the desire to do. Your numbers are 4, 7, 16, 24, 39, 40, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look over your books and personal paperwork and you will find something interesting that you overlooked. You may have to argue your concern with an institution or government agency but it will be worth it. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get railroaded into doing things for free when you need the cash. It's important not to underestimate yourself. A bad job will result in a poor review and possible job demotion or loss. Call in favors. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone is watching your every move and, with the slightest error, you will be penalized for your shortsightedness. Emotions will play a factor in the way you react personally and professionally. Be sure you have the facts to back you up. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You don't have to impress anyone if you put every effort into doing your best. Presenting and promoting what you have to offer will lead

to an opportunity. Don't exaggerate about what you have to offer. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be eager to spend, travel and do whatever you can to find a little adventure and excitement. Don't let your desires turn into a costly venture that will leave you strapped financially. Emotional deception is apparent. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be afraid to make a move or to put pressure on someone from whom you need an answer. Love is in the stars and, if you are upfront and honest, you stand a better chance of receiving what you ask for. Personal changes will boost your confidence. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Limit your spending and don't fall for a fast-talking salesperson offering a product that claims unrealistic results. Focus on damage control at home where someone is likely to be overindulgent or to overreact. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more time into your personal and home life, interacting with the people you love. The things you do to smooth over any personal problems will bring about stellar results, enabling you to follow a sought-after creative path. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be honest with yourself about what you want and what you don't want. Personal changes are necessary. Create the opportunity you need to move forward by eliminating what isn't working in your life right now. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to offer what you can to the groups

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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you feel deserve help. Once you get involved in something you believe in, you will begin to meet people who can offer you something in return. It's time to mix the past and present to find your future. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stability, hard work and self-improvement are all in the stars. Learning something new about your past will help you understand where you've been making a mistake. It's time to look honestly at your personal situation. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your aggressive, productive and self-starting approach to both your personal and professional lives will send a signal to friends and enemies alike. Don't stop until you reach your goals. Now is not the time to rest nor to let someone get away with something. ★★★★★

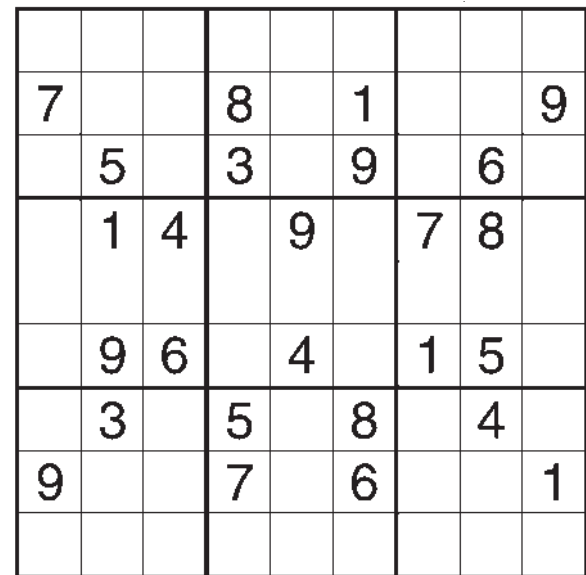
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and emotional and you change your mind based on your feelings. You are enthusiastic, original and play to win.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



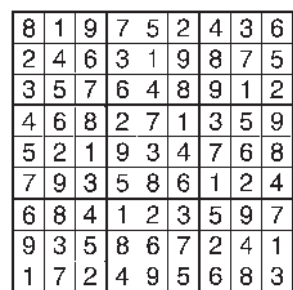
Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

3/25

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

Solution: 8 letters



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Albright, Andrew, Armie, Billy, Blogging, Create, Divya, Dorm, Eduardo, Eisenberg, Erica, Gain, Garfield, Genius, Grow, Hammer, Harvard, Huge, Idea, Jesse, Justin, Link, Mark, Narendra, Olsen, Online, Page, Palo Alto, Parker, Pence, Pictures, Programming, Reach, Room, Rooney, Saverin, School, Sean, Site, Song, Timberland, Twins, Undergrad, Young, Zuckerberg

Yesterday's Answer: Conning

SALE: This puzzle is available for sale on the puzzle site and the puzzle site. For more information, please visit the puzzle site. For more information, please visit the puzzle site. For more information, please visit the puzzle site.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
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JAVILI GENERAL
PARTNERSHIP,
Plaintiff,

CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 10-0283

-v-

SUMMONS
FOR
PUBLICATION

DONG MIN JIN and
SHUN YU JIANG,
Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty (20) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 07th day of FEBRUARY, 2011.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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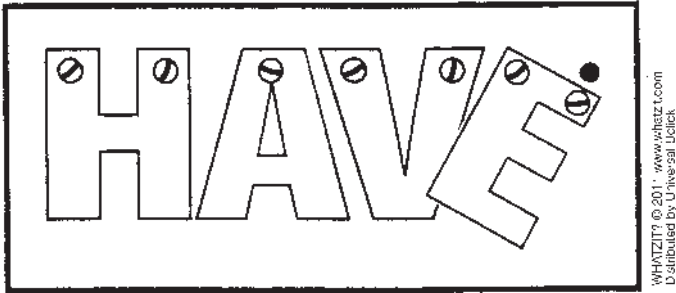
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Depleted Nuggets roll past Grizzlies, 120-107



The newly-acquired Denver Nuggets' Raymond Felton, from left, Wilson Chandler, Danilo Gallinari and Timofey Mozgov are welcomed at the Pepsi Center during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game between the Nuggets and the Memphis Grizzlies, Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, in Denver.



DENVER (AP)—For one night, the Denver Nuggets didn't need Carmelo Anthony, Chauncey Billups or any of their new acquisitions.

J.R. Smith's 26 points helped short-handed Denver beat the Memphis Grizzlies 120-107 on Tuesday, hours after the Nuggets finalized a blockbuster deal that sent Anthony and Billups to the New York Knicks.

Tony Allen had 26 points and O.J. Mayo added 21 for the Grizzlies, who had their four-game winning streak halted.

The Nuggets had only nine players on the bench following a three-team trade that also involved Minnesota.

In the 13-player swap, the Knicks picked up Anthony, who has long been thought to want to play in the Big Apple, along with Billups, Shelden Williams, Anthony Carter and Renaldo Balkman.

But New York had to pay a steep price, sending Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton, Danilo Gallinari, Timofey Mozgov and a 2014 first-round draft pick to the Nuggets, who get additional picks and cash. Denver also acquired center Kosta Koufos from the Timberwolves.

The moves reshaped Denver's roster by giving the team a bevy of talented young players.

Felton, Mozgov, Chandler and Gallinari received the biggest ovation of the night without even stepping on the floor. They waved to the crowd from the side of the court after spending most of the game watching from a luxury suite as their new teammates picked apart the Grizzlies.

Coming out with an early intensity, the Nuggets jumped out to a 24-point lead in the first half and never glanced back.

Smith hit a 33-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to end the third quarter, increasing the lead to 102-76.

That was just the way the night was going for the Nuggets.

No Anthony meant more shots to go around for everyone, especially Smith, who's never been bashful to pull up and take a jumper. He finished 9 of 22 as he stepped into Anthony's starting spot.

However, Smith hobbled off the court

late in the game favoring his right leg.

In a pregame news conference, team president Josh Kroenke went out of his way to express remorse that the trade had to include Billups, a hometown favorite.

"He is Denver basketball," Kroenke said.

But speedy Ty Lawson efficiently ran the team in place of Billups, scoring 21 points and dishing out seven assists.

Nuggets coach George Karl relished the thought of coaching a depleted squad, pondering different moves and scoring options all day.

"I've been told by a lot of owners that I coach better when I have a shorter bench," Karl said. "I think everybody knows I enjoy these type of games where you have to mix and match some situations and circumstances and find some success."

With the Nuggets comfortably up, a chorus of "Who needs 'Melo?'" began to ring through the crowd.

With Anthony, though, went 25 points a game—a difficult total to make up.

"We lost a superstar and superstars are hard to find in this league," general manager Masai Ujiri said. "Chauncey and 'Melo' were the ultimate—they brought smiles and excitement and greatness to this basketball organization."

"Do I feel there's a future here? Absolutely. I feel very confident that things will work out and people will love watching these young kids play basketball here."

The Nuggets have 24 more games to reassemble the pieces in an effort to make the playoffs for an eighth straight season. The team entered the night in seventh place in the Western Conference, just ahead of Memphis and Utah.

With the rumors picking up intensity over the last few weeks, the Nuggets appeared to be a distracted bunch, dropping four of six before the All-Star break.

Now, the drama has ended and the pressure relieved.

"I'm just happy it's over with. Period. We won't have to answer these questions no more," Al Harrington said. "I hope this is the last time I'm going to have to answer any trade questions for a long time."

Lakers 104, Hawks 80

At Los Angeles, all-Star game MVP Kobe Bryant scored 20 points, and Pau Gasol added 14 points and 10 rebounds, as Los Angeles ended its three-game skid with an easy victory over struggling Atlanta.

Shannon Brown scored 15 points as the two-time defending NBA champions got right back into form after stumbling into their hometown All-Star weekend with increasingly embarrassing road losses to Orlando, Charlotte and league-worst Cleveland.

All-Star Joe Johnson scored 14 points for the Hawks, who opened a five-game road trip with their fourth loss in five games.

Celtics 115, Warriors 93

At Oakland, California, Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo each came close to a triple-double as Boston picked up right where it left off before the All-Star break with a victory over Golden State.

Garnett had 24 points, 12 rebounds and six assists, and Rondo had 19 points, 15 assists and six rebounds to help the Celtics stay atop the Eastern Conference standings and break a six-game losing streak at Golden State.

Dorell Wright scored 19 points and Stephen Curry had 18 for the Warriors.

Heat 117, Kings 97

At Miami, LeBron James scored 31 points and Dwyane Wade added 23 as Miami opened its post-All-Star schedule with an easy win over Sacramento.

Chris Bosh had a 22-point, nine-rebound night and Mario Chalmers added 14 points for Miami, which won for the 11th time in its last 12 games. The Heat made seven straight shots on the way to shooting 64 percent in the opening quarter, setting the stage for a rout.

Samuel Dalembert had 18 points and 13 rebounds off the bench for the Kings, who are 1-8 in February.

Thunder 111, Clippers 88

At Oklahoma City, Jeff Green scored 22 points and Kevin Durant added 21 as Oklahoma spoiled Blake Griffin's return to his hometown by beating Los Angeles.

Griffin made a run at his first career triple-double but came up two assists shy. He followed his slam dunk title and rare All-Star appearance by a rookie by amassing 28 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, but the Clippers sorely missed him when he was out of the game.

Bobcats 114, Raptors 101

At Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin had 23 points and eight assists as Charlotte cruised past listless Toronto despite losing top scorer Stephen Jackson to a strained left hamstring.

Gerald Wallace added 20 points and Boris Diaw had 16 points and nine assists for the Bobcats, who took control with a dominant second quarter before Jackson got hurt midway through the third.

Jackson, who scored 13 points, collided with Toronto's Amir Johnson after a driving layup and later limped to the locker room while clutching his left leg. He returned to the bench a few minutes later, but didn't play again.

Sonny Weems scored 19 points and Andrea Bargnani added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Raptors, who lost their 11th straight road game to tie a franchise record.

Pacers 113, Wizards 96

At Washington, Danny Granger had 21 points and 10 rebounds as Indiana piled on the fast-break points to open the season's homestretch with a rout of Washington.

Tyler Hansbrough added 17 points in 21 minutes as the Pacers broke a two-game losing streak and improved to 8-3 under interim coach Frank Vogel.

The Pacers scored all 26 of their fast-break points by the third quarter and would have broken their season high of 28 if they hadn't started taking their time because they were so far ahead.

Rockets 108, Pistons 100

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, rookie forward Patrick Patterson scored a career-high 20 points, including seven in a row late in the fourth quarter as Houston pulled away from Detroit.

After both teams had blown double-digit leads, Patterson's tip-in gave the Rockets a 95-94 advantage. He added a three-point play and a pair of free throws to make it a six-point game with 2:35 to play.

Aaron Brooks finished the run with two free throws. Kevin Martin scored 16 points for Houston.

Will Bynum led Detroit with 21 points and Rodney Stuckey added 19, but Tayshaun Prince missed all nine of his field goal attempts and scored only one point.

Bucks 94, Timberwolves 88

At Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 27 points and made five free throws down the stretch to lead Milwaukee over Minnesota.

Michael Beasley scored 21 points and All-Star Kevin Love had 20, but it wasn't enough as Minnesota lost for the sixth time in its last seven games in Milwaukee.

Corey Maggette finished with 20 points and got the Bucks started in the fourth quarter when he scored the first six points to break a 76-all tie.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA hoping to speed up games with warning horns

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The NBA has a message for players and officials: Be ready to start when a timeout is over. The league's scoreboard operators have been told to sound warning horns during breaks in the action in an effort to cut down on the length of games. According to a courtside memo Tuesday night at the Detroit Pistons' game against the Houston Rockets, games have been taking longer, "largely due to prolonged delays after breaks." NBA spokesman Tim Frank confirmed to The Associated Press that the new protocol went into effect Tuesday night. Memos outlined new procedures for locally telecast games, including warning horns to be sounded shortly before the ends of timeouts and breaks between periods. Those warning horns are to be followed by final horns ending those breaks, and referees are directed to make sure huddles break promptly. "We communicated to teams that the first horn was a warning that the TO was to end and that they should be on their way to resume by the second," Frank said in an e-mail.

Bobcats' Jackson leaves with hamstring injury

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bobcats top scorer Stephen Jackson has left Charlotte's game against Toronto with a strained left hamstring. Jackson collided with Raptors forward Amir Johnson after Jackson's driving layup and landed awkwardly under the basket midway through the third quarter Tuesday night. He got up and limped around before sitting down near midcourt 16 seconds later. Jackson was helped to his feet and grabbed his left hamstring as he hobbled off the court and into the locker room. He returned to the bench a few minutes later, but the Bobcats said he wouldn't return to the game. Jackson has been mentioned in numerous trade talks, although coach Paul Silas has said he doesn't anticipate the Bobcats making a move before Thursday's deadline.

Shaq rehabbing injured leg in Florida

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal is rehabbing his injured right leg near his Florida home and is not expected to rejoin the Boston Celtics until after their West Coast trip. Celtics coach Doc Rivers says O'Neal has slimmed down slightly and is close to making his return. Boston began a four-game road swing at Golden State on Tuesday night, the seventh straight game O'Neal has missed. Rivers said it was possible that O'Neal could rejoin the team on the road. But he said it was more likely the 38-year-old center wouldn't play until Boston returns home March 2 against Phoenix. Fellow center Jermaine O'Neal also is expected to be out until early April. Kendrick Perkins, the starting center on last season's NBA finals team, will continue to start.

Jeter laughs off Hank Steinbrenner's comments



TAMPA, Fla.

(AP)—Derek Jeter laughed off Hank Steinbrenner's as-

sertion that some New York Yankees were "too busy building mansions" after winning the 2009 World Series.

The Yankees captain was building a large multimillion dollar home in Tampa last year when New York lost to Texas in the AL championship series after fading in the second half of the season and winding up with the AL wild card.

Steinbrenner, the Yankees co-chairman, made the remark Monday in saying his team lacked hunger last year.

"I understand most of it," Jeter said before Tuesday's spring training workout. "The house, I didn't understand. That's a first. That's funny, I think. I'm not moving, so we won't be talking about this again."

Jeter often smiled and laughed during an 11-minute session with reporters. He pointed out, with a smile, that Steinbrenner used the plural "mansions" and that his name was not specially mentioned.

The shortstop said no further explanation was needed from the oldest son of George Steinbrenner, the Yankees owner who died last July.

"Hopefully this is the last time we have to discuss last season," Jeter said.

Steinbrenner said later Tuesday his comments were not directed at Jeter.

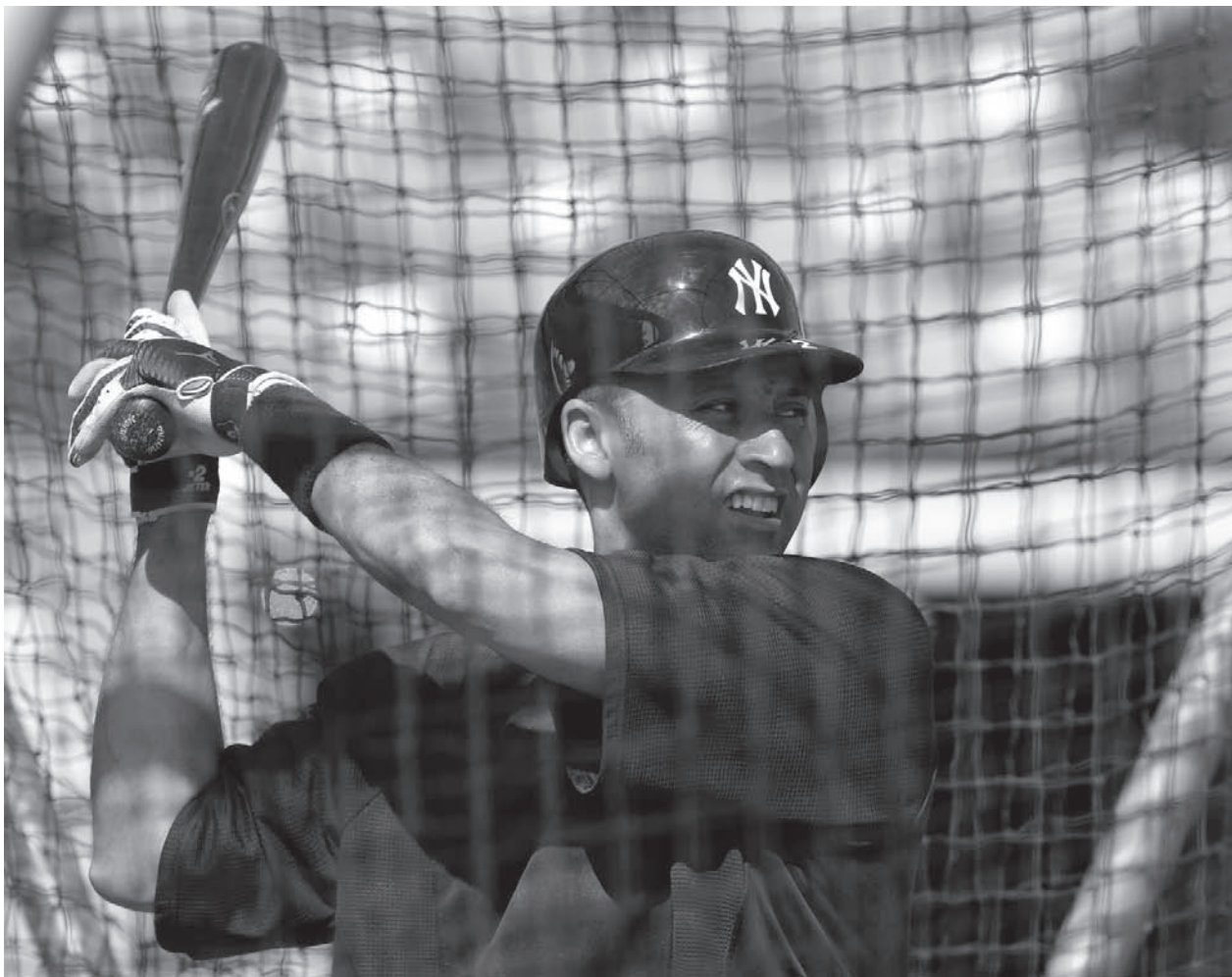
"It was a generalization, a euphemism. A bad choice of a euphemism," Steinbrenner said. "That's all it was."

Steinbrenner sent a message to Jeter clarifying his remarks.

"Sometimes teams get a little complacent, they celebrate for too long," Steinbrenner said. "It certainly isn't Derek. Derek's got five rings. You don't win five rings by being complacent. So, it was definitely not Derek I was talking about, and it wasn't, obviously, a few other players, either. But in the end we've got to win."

"He knows I wasn't referring to him," Steinbrenner added. "It's not what I meant. That was never my intention."

After Steinbrenner's comments



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter hits in the batting cage during a baseball spring training workout Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, Fla. AP

Feds submit more evidence in Bonds perjury case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal prosecutors urged a judge Tuesday to let them show the jury in Barry Bonds' perjury trial a trove of evidence alleging the slugger mistreated his wife, girlfriends and other people around him.

A court filing submitted by prosecutors included grand jury transcripts and interviews investigators conducted with several witnesses that they plan to call during the trial scheduled to start March 21.

The witnesses include Bonds' former mistress, Kimberly Bell, his personal doctor and a childhood friend who served as his assistant and personal shopper during his playing days.

All three have told investigators that Bonds mistreated his domestic help and his personal trainer Greg Anderson,

who is refusing to testify at the former Giant's trial.

Defense lawyers are objecting to their statements as irrelevant to the perjury case.

Bonds' lawyers are also seeking to prevent Bell and Dr. Larry Bower, the medical director of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, from testifying about the side effects of steroids. Prosecutors plan to ask Bell about the physical and mental changes she such as male pattern baldness and a short, violent temper she said Bonds went through that Bowers will testify are symptoms of steroid use.

Bonds' lawyers own expert counters that those symptoms can be attributed to other causes and that the science of steroid use is still unsettled.

The judge will rule on the evidence later.

Union and NFL heading toward full week of mediation



WASHINGTON (AP)—Federally mediated negotiations between the NFL and the players' union have stretched 35 hours over five consecutive days—and they aren't done.

The mediation is voluntary—in theory, each side could walk away at any time—yet it now appears very likely that the current round of talks will stretch through Thursday, which would make for a full week.

One indication: The union sent a memo Tuesday to let player agents know that their meeting that was supposed to happen Thursday in Indianapolis is being postponed because of the mediation.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and members of their bargaining teams met for about eight hours Tuesday at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a U.S. government agency.

Among those joining Smith on Tuesday were Chicago Bears linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer, Baltimore Ravens cornerback Domonique Foxworth and former player Sean Morey.

All participants have been abiding

by mediator George Cohen's request not to discuss the talks publicly.

"You guys will just speculate too much on whatever I say," Hillenmeyer said when he left.

Union spokesman George Atallah wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press: "Every report about what's happening in the room at this point is pure speculation."

After months of infrequent and sometimes contentious bargaining, the league and union have been communicating face-to-face since Friday.

They agreed to try mediation in a bid to find common ground before the current labor deal expires at the end of the day March 3. The union has said it believes team owners want to lock out the players as soon as the next day, which could threaten the 2011 season.

One key member of the NFLPA negotiating team, outside counsel Jeffrey Kessler, walked out Tuesday with a rolling suitcase and got into a waiting taxi. He was leaving town ahead of Thursday's hearing in Minneapolis in front of U.S. District Court judge David Doty for the union's appeal of a ruling about whether the NFL improperly

negotiated TV contracts. Doty holds jurisdiction over NFL labor matters.

"I've got to focus now on Minnesota," Kessler said, "but I'll be back."

The NFLPA's memo putting off the scheduled meeting with agents at the NFL combine this week in Indianapolis was confirmed by Atallah after being first reported Tuesday by SportsBusiness Journal.

The meeting was postponed until Friday.

The league and union went more than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once the next week, then called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: a rookie wage scale; the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

Broncos sign Champ Bailey to 4-year deal

DENVER (AP)—Champ Bailey fantasized about being winned and dined as the prize of the 2011 free agent class. He dreamed about jetting across the country to be wooed and wowed.

In the end, though, the perennial Pro Bowl cornerback excused the Broncos for pulling a four-year contract offer off the table back in October and decided to stay in Denver even though he might have made more money on the open market.

"One thing I've learned, the grass ain't always greener," Bailey said Tuesday after signing a four-year deal with Denver worth more than \$40 million. "I could go to an organization that looks like they're ready and then they're not ready and then I'm miserable because I'm around a lot of unfamiliar faces and in an unfamiliar place."

"I thought about that and I thought about being on the market. But all in all, it didn't really take me to forgive them. There's new people in charge

Tuesday, Jeter said he never thought the remarks were directed at him.

"I guess I was right," he said.

Also Tuesday, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig and executive vice president Rob Manfred spoke by telephone with Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner and president Randy Levine telling them team officials should not comment publicly on labor matters. In addition to his comments about Jeter on Monday, Hank Steinbrenner—Hal's brother—was critical of baseball's revenue sharing rules.

Jeter hit .270 last year, 44 points below his career average. He also went through offseason contract talks that were played out in public and became snippy at times en route to a \$51 million, three-year deal.

Jeter disagrees with Steinbrenner, who said the 2010 team may have been "riding the wave" of the World Series title.

"That I didn't see," Jeter said. "I wouldn't say it was a lack of hunger. I just think we didn't play as well, that's why we lost. We got beat by a team that was better than us in that (ALCS) series."

"Owners can say whatever they want," Jeter added. "They're entitled to their opinions. You don't always, necessarily, agree with their opinion. We can have a difference of opinion."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi believes Steinbrenner was just venting about how last season ended.

"The same frustration all of us had last year," Girardi said. "I was not happy about the way we played. The players were not happy about the way we played. We didn't play well against Texas for a lot of reasons. We didn't, necessarily, hit. We didn't, necessarily, pitch. That's bad combination."

Some consider the Yankees to be an underdog in the AL East after Boston added left fielder Carl Crawford and first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. It's a position Steinbrenner will not take.

"I'm not going to say that about our players," he said. "That would be insulting our players. All I'm saying is were one of the four or five best teams in baseball. Anyone of those teams could win the World Series."

I know that I could have gotten something worked out. Once Josh McDaniels left, things did work out, didn't it?"

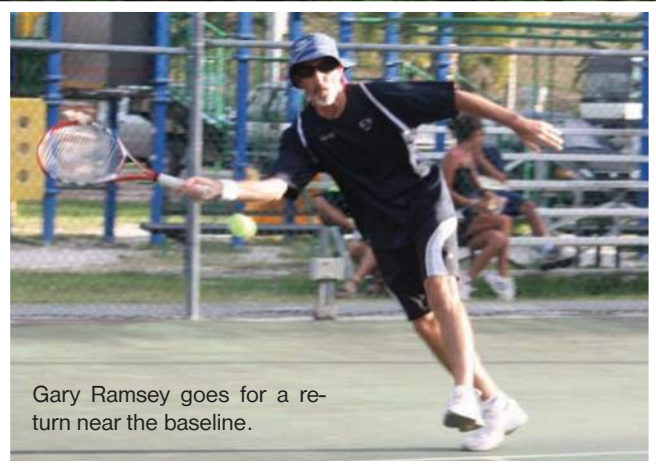
One reason he didn't test free agency, he said, was the league's labor uncertainty.

The sides are meeting in Washington, D.C., under federal mediation in a bid to find common ground before the current labor deal expires at the end of the day March 3. The union has said it believes team owners want to lock out the players as soon as the next day, which could threaten the 2011 season.

"There is no certainty once March 4 rolls around," Bailey said. "That played a role in my decision, to make sure something got done. I don't know what's going to happen after March 3, because of the CBA and all of that stuff. You don't know how teams are going to react to free agents and what's going to be out there. I just figured if I can, get it done."

2011 White Coconut Classic

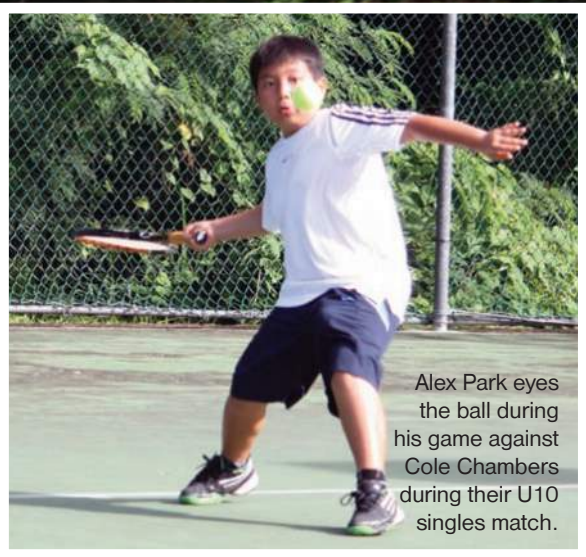
Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Gary Ramsey goes for a return near the baseline.



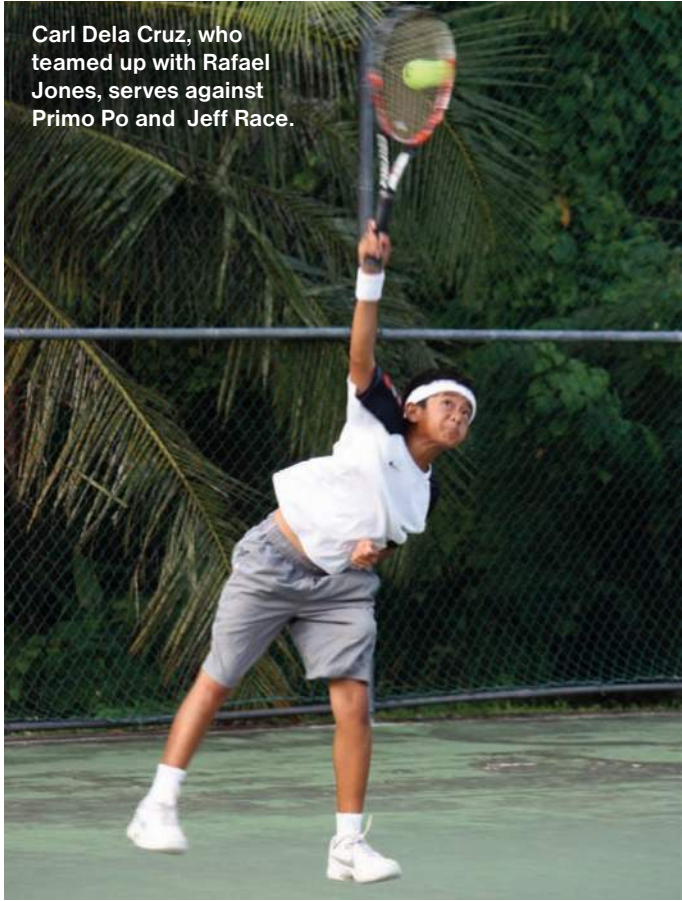
Negahr Rastguiy returns to Melody Johnson during their U15 singles semis game.



Alex Park eyes the ball during his game against Cole Chambers during their U10 singles match.



Primo Po serves while teammate Jeff Race gets ready near the net during their quarterfinals game against Rafael Jones and Carl Dela Cruz in the mixed up doubles event of the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



Carl Dela Cruz, who teamed up with Rafael Jones, serves against Primo Po and Jeff Race.



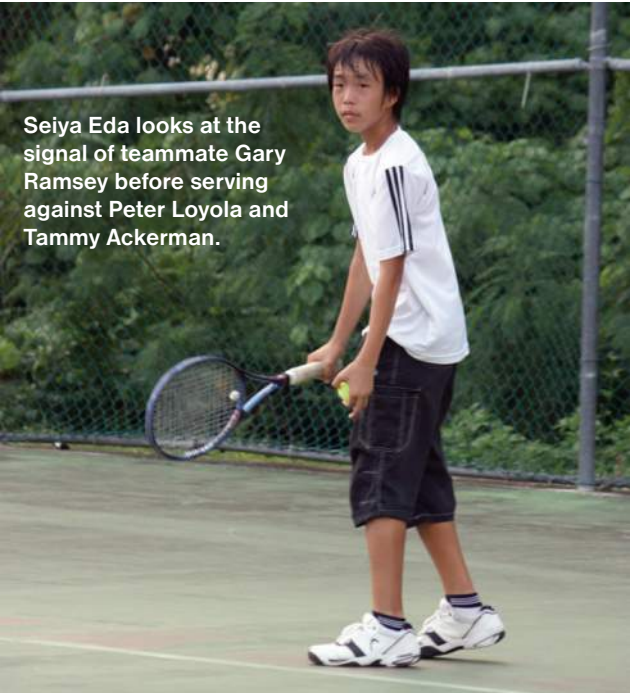
Peter Loken, left, and Emily Jones exchange hi-fives after winning over Lydia Tan and Negahr Rastguiy.



Lydia Tan serves.



Above, Cole Chambers returns to Alex Park.



Seiya Eda looks at the signal of teammate Gary Ramsey before serving against Peter Loyola and Tammy Ackerman.



Left, Luther Liza prepares for a backhand return to Alfie Madlambayan during their U10 singles game.



**Jeter laughs
off Hank
Steinbrenner's
comments**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Depleted Nuggets
roll past Grizzlies,
120-107**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heo hopes to continue winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo hopes to continue his strong debut in collegiate tennis after going unbeaten in his first five games with Hawaii Pacific University in NCAA Division II competition.



"It felt great to have a undefeated record so far and I hope to keep it that way," said Heo, who defeated all his five singles foes in straight sets and was a big factor in the Sea Warriors' doubles triumphs.

Heo debuted in the NCAA Division II against Gustavus Adolphus College of Minnesota early this month at the Central Oahu Regional Park and won both his singles and doubles matches en route to the Sea Warriors' 7-2 victory. He went on to help HPU win three of its four road games in Arizona, but even he was undefeated, Heo said he really felt the heat of the competition.

"It was a great experience. It was all adrenaline rush. People were screaming everywhere, from court to court. Everybody is screaming every point, every second, and it's tough to play in this condition, but HPU was able to pull through and win most of our matches. College tennis is crazy but fun," the 19-year-old former CNMI junior netter said.

"I felt a little nervous in the beginning, but I felt like I played better and better as the games went on. I still have to work on matchplay but it will come in time," he added.

Of the five games he played so far, Heo admitted it was his match against University of California San Diego's Vincent Nguyen that gave him quite a scare.

"I would say my toughest match so far was the singles match against UCSD. I felt pressured to win this match the most. I wouldn't say

See HEO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ji Hoon Heo of Hawaii Pacific University serves during a NCAA Division II competition in Hawaii.

Angels rout Fielders, 14-6



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

St. Michael's Angels first baseman Jerome Delos Santos stretches to complete a double-play to close out the top half of the first inning in last Tuesday's Saipan Major League game against the Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The St. Michael's Angels gave the Fielders its second loss in three games with a 14-6 thrashing in the Saipan Major League Tuesday under the lights at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was the Angels' second win in

as many games.

The Angels struck first with a pair of RBI singles by Jerome Delos Santos and Ben Taisacan, but the Fielders answered with three runs in the bottom frame. Shane Mendiola and John Reyes drove in the tying runs and Mendiola scored later off an error.

However, the Fielders gave up four runs off a couple errors and two passed balls to start the second inning before

See ANGELS on Page 26

UBA suspends two players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Unified Basketball Association suspended Hoopaholics'

Ponce Rasa and Satbahi's Rolly Paraiso for figuring in an altercation during the second game in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rasa was slapped with a two-game suspension, while Paraiso was barred from playing for one match. The Hoopaholics swingman is grounded in the team's last game of the regular season against Rollers on March 2. Paraiso can suit up for Satbahi in their Feb. 28 match over the Ol'Aces, as the suspensions were effective last Monday night when he and Rasa were thrown out of the game.

According to UBA's statement, the two players were ejected due to their unsportsmanlike conduct. Rasa pushed Paraiso

See UBA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Satbahi's Rolly Paraiso, seen here going up for a shot against IT&E Fundamentalists' Ben Wood, right, and Darren Kaizer, was suspended for one game after figuring in an altercation with the Hoopaholics' Ponce Rasa, who was slapped with a two-game suspension.

BANMI to hold open tryout for MBT U15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands will have an open tryout for the 2011 Micronesians Basketball Tournament U15 Western Division.

BANMI vice president Elias Rangamar

said the association will call for an open tryout to form a developmental pool of players, who will be tapped to represent the CNMI in various competitions in the next few years.

"If we can have a pool of 100 players, that will be great," said Rangamar, explaining that BANMI wants to tap as many players as it can to form various teams by levels.

See OPEN on Page 26

MTEC reaches out to high schools



MVA

Marianas Tourism Education chair Vicky Benavente, standing far right, visit the Kagman High School's Hospitality Class to speak on the importance of tourism on Feb. 3, 2011. MTEC is encouraging high schools to establish MY WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club and become more involved in tourism-related activities, such as airport greetings and island cleanups. Benavente was joined in the presentation by Marianas Visitors Authority community projects coordinator Ill Frank Tudela, standing fifth from right, and MTEC volunteer Fernando Torres, standing fifth from left.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is taking its tourism education message to student leaders in an ongoing series of high school presentations.

Over the last month, MTEC officials and representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority have visited Marianas High, Saipan Southern High, and Kagman High to speak with student council organizations and other student

groups about the importance of tourism and ways students can support the industry.

"The future of the Northern Marianas is dependent on both tourism and our youth. It's a given that students should have the opportunity to learn about the industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We're grateful for the warm reception we've received from both students and staff."

MTEC's presentations include a summary of visitor arrivals, source markets, and the economic impact of tourism. MTEC is also offering high schools a financial incentive to start a MYWAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club and become actively involved in tourism-related activities, such as airport greetings and island clean-ups.

Today, Feb. 24, MTEC will hold a board meeting at the MVA conference room. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at (670) 664-3210.

MTEC is a nonprofit organization promoting community awareness on the importance of the visitor industry in the Northern Marianas. (MVA)



MVA

LEARNING ABOUT TOURISM

Members of two Marianas High School Tourism classes taught by Tyce Mister, in black polo, visit the Marianas Visitors Authority headquarters in San Jose, Saipan on Feb. 22, 2011. The next generation of tourism professionals received a tour by the MVA Marketing Division and learned firsthand about working in the visitor industry. Pictured from left are Jake Ray, Phyllis Norita, Rudy Sablan, Mister, Frankeli "Vince" Camacho, Kyanna Tenorio, and Jacquelyn Arriola.



MVA

Members of two Marianas High School Tourism classes express excitement about the prospects for the growth of Northern Marianas tourism and a desire to aid visitors while here during a visit to the Marianas Visitors Authority headquarters in San Jose, Saipan on Feb. 22, 2011. Back row from left are Jerald Habi-jan, Raymond Olopai, Kevin Perez, and MHS teacher Tyce Mister. From row from left are Lisascheeyong Iginoef, Gilda Ogarro, Olivia Leung, Joylein John, and Maria Reyes.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 24, 1999

Law lengthens curfew hours

Alarmed over the increase in cases of juvenile crimes, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has approved an amendment to a local law extending by one hour the curfew hours for minors. Under the new law, minors aged 16 years and older will not be allowed to loiter in public places, restaurants, entertainment or amusement centers on the island between 10pm and 5am the following day and between 9pm and 5am for those 16 years old below. "Hopefully this legislation will help in decreasing the number of juvenile related crimes which has significantly increased," the governor said in a letter to the Legislature after signing Saipan Law 11-4.

Legislators urged not to stall CIP bill

The chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee yesterday warned legislators against derailing a key legislation appropriating funds under the capital improvement projects, saying the measure has to be in place as soon as possible to help spur the local economy. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, who sponsored the House bill that will set in motion millions of dollars in CIP funds on the island, maintained the projects outlined in the measure are those considered priority in the master plan that was drafted for more than six months by the government last year. "The longer we hold it back, the more problem it creates," Reyes said in an interview, reacting to reports that his bill may be amended in the Senate after the House has passed it in its entirety.

Feb. 24, 2000

GAO report may shield CNMI vs fed takeover

A report prepared by the accounting and investigative arm of the U.S. Congress on the Commonwealth's economy could be a strong shield against Washington D.C. efforts to extend federal immigration and minimum wage laws into the CNMI. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed confidence the U.S. Congress will take into consideration the General Accounting Office report when it tackles legislative measures on the federalization of CNMI immigration and minimum wage. Mr. Tenorio said the study was actually requested by the U.S. Congress in light of recommendations and report submitted by the Clinton Administration detailing harsh accusations against the Commonwealth's handling of its own labor and immigration policies.

Bill seeks to earmark \$123K to Rota

House Vice Speaker Alejo Mendiola is introducing a local legislative measure that would earmark \$123,000 in total funds generated from pachinko and poker machine license fees to major projects that will be undertaken by the local government of Rota. The finance department said the government generated at least \$123,000 from the Rota Local Law 11-1 which was implemented beginning Dec. 30, 1998. Mr. Mendiola said his proposed measure would put these funds for use by the Rota local government in several essential community programs on areas that include livelihood, health and education.

Feb. 24, 2003

CPA in talks with US Customs

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will initiate discussions with the U.S. Customs about the possibility of making the Northern Marianas a pre-clearance point for mainland-bound cargoes. The proposal will make the Commonwealth a host to thousands of cargoes that are supposed to be shipped to the mainland U.S. from various shipment points across Asia, according to Carlos H. Salas, CPA executive director. "If the volume picks up and we get a portion of that market, it would help us keep the costs of operating the Saipan seaport down. But there are several issues that we need to discuss first with the U.S. Customs before the quota restriction is lifted in 2005," Salas said.

Funds raised for Crime Stoppers

The Saipan community expressed support to a local group's Commonwealth-wide crime-fighting efforts by participating in a special fundraising drive at the Hamilton's Bar Friday night. While the "Wine and Cheese" event was held to primarily raise funds for CNMI Crime Stoppers, the evening did not end without the community recognizing the group's efforts in helping fight the proliferation of criminal activities in the Northern Marianas. CNMI Crime Stopper vice president Rod Klinge said the fundraising event was held to put two things together—for the sponsors and board directors to meet for fun while raising money for the organization, at the same time.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 2nd birthday to our baby girl Danielle Vicenta Attao Babauta, who celebrated her special day yesterday, Feb. 23! With lots of love, hugs, and kisses from Mommy, Daddy and Princess. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our best daddy and honey in the world, Myron Laniyo, who is celebrating his day today, Feb. 24, 2011! May God bless you always and may you have many more years to come! Much love from LuKaiLin. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pierce is new executive director of Saipan chamber

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors has selected Richard A. Pierce to succeed Kyle Calabrese as the Chamber's executive director. Pierce will assume this position on March 7, 2011.

Pierce is a long-time Commonwealth businessman, a former special assistant to four Commonwealth governors, and the former executive director of the Saipan Garment Man-



Pierce

ufacturers Association. He also served on the Chamber's board of directors from 1996 to 1998 and as the board president from 1999 to 2001.

Pierce continues to have ownership interests in Safety 1st Systems CNMI and Gold's Gym. He has extensive experience representing private-sector interests before the local and federal governments and in-depth familiarity with lo-

'Courts cannot order job search'

The Supreme Court has reversed a lower court order that directed a debtor to seek a job to settle an obligation.

In a unanimous decision issued Tuesday in *Marianas Eye Institute v. Pitness Moses*, the Supreme Court said that the Commonwealth's statutory law does not allow Commonwealth courts to issue an order that requires a debtor to look for work.

The case concerned whether a debtor could be forced to look for employment for the purpose of paying a debt.

The dispute arose when Pitness Moses received eye care from Marianas Eye Institute but failed to pay for the services he received. Marianas Eye eventually filed a complaint with the Commonwealth courts, and after a hearing, the court issued a judgment in its favor. Moses, however, did not pay the judgment against him. The Superior Court then ordered Moses to look for a job for the purpose of obtaining employment and paying his debt to Marianas Eye. Moses appealed the job search order to the Supreme Court.

After reviewing the applicable statutory provisions governing judgment-debtors, the

Supreme Court found that the controlling statutes only allowed for direct methods of payment, such as transferring assets or periodic payment plans. Requiring a debtor to look for work is neither a direct method of payment nor explicitly permitted by the statutes. Unless the Legislature changes the law, the Commonwealth courts cannot order debtors to conduct job searches. The Supreme Court also held that Moses could be regularly examined by the Superior Court to determine if he obtains sufficient income or assets to pay the debt at a later date.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Marianas Eye Institute v. Pitness Moses*, 2011 MP 1, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. **(CNMI Supreme Court)**

cal and federal legislative and regulatory processes.

"We are very excited to welcome Richard as our new executive director, and look forward to making use of his broad private- and public-sector experience as we navigate our way through a challenging

time in the Commonwealth's history," said Chamber president Douglas Brennan. "Richard will be an asset to our organization as we continue to work with the local and federal governments to ensure that upcoming changes within our community and economy are

DPH to hold seasonal flu vaccination drive Saturday

The Department of Public Health will be conducting a mass vaccination drive for the public on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Ada Gymnasium in Oleai from 7am to 12pm.

Flu shots will be available to the public for free. All people 6 months of age and older should get the flu shot. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Flu shots will not be given to persons allergic to eggs

or with a fever.

DPH is encouraging the public to get the flu shot. By getting vaccinated, and practicing proper hygiene, people can protect themselves from the flu and may also avoid spreading the flu to others.

"We encourage the flu vaccine for its benefits in preventing the seasonal flu and as an added line of defense, complementing proper hygiene," said

structured in a way that minimize potential harm to business owners, managers, and employees."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has approximately 150 members, ranging from individuals and small companies to some of the largest companies in the Pacific region.

The Chamber annually awards college scholarship

funds to deserving Commonwealth high school seniors; members have hosted thousands of visiting military personnel at welcome receptions; and its forums and workshops have educated and informed thousands of members and non-members on diverse topics that affect the island's businesses, economy, and community. **(SCC)**

DPH epidemiologist Edward Diaz.

DPH would also like to remind the public to W.A.T.C.H. IT!

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid sick people (stay home when you're sick), Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth (germs spread this

way), and get your Annual flu shot.

- Teach others how to prevent the flu.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with tissue or sleeve, not your hands!
- Have an emergency plan ready in case you get sick and keep two weeks' worth of emergency supplies, food, water and medicine at home.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/flu and www.dph **(DPH)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-OVR-056**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 16, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF SEVEN (7) DESKTOP
COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE OFFICE
OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT APPLICABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARGARITA R. OLOPAI-TAITANO
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-003**

**CONSTRUCTION OF TWO PAVILIONS AT
CAPITOL HILL PARK, SAIPAN**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Two Pavilions at Capitol Hill Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after February 10, 2011 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 02, 2011, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Capitol Hill Baseball Park, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 07, 2011 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**. 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-003"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time March 14, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time March 14, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 14, 2011** and must be received no later than **March 23, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required numbers of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, **March 28, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bid will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on **March 17, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen percent (15% of the bid amount) must accompany the bid. Bid Security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for the contract greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time and completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working day for delay beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MAGDALENA I. MAMUN	)	FCD-DI-CIVIL
	)	ACTION
Petitioner	)	NO. 10-0438
)	
vs.	)	SUMMONS
	)	FOR
MOHAMMED MAMUN	)	PUBLICATION
)	
Respondent)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HERBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503714 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 17th day of February

/s/ Clerk of Court

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0022
Plaintiff,)	
-v-	)	NOTICE OF SALE
JOSEPH A. AGUILTO)	
Defendant.)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on January 6, 2011, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Joseph A. Aguilto in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT NO. 011 G 1078, KAGMAN III, consisting of approximately 835 square meters; and which is also described as:

LOT NO. 011 G 1078, containing an area of 835 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 19, the original of which was recorded on December 9, 1993 as file no. 93-4287 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 14, 2011, at the hour of 3:45 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this _____ day of January, 2011:

RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0350
Plaintiff,)	
-v-	)	FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
MARIANO TEDI ALDAN, aka MARINO TEDI ALDAN,)	
Defendant)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on December 13, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Mariano Tedi Aldan aka Marino Tedi Aldan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 010 K 121, containing an area of 991 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2911 dated August 19, 1987.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 14, 2011, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

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a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this _____ day of February, 2011:

RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer